

## Democrats weigh formal impeachment vote as probe quickens

By LISA MASCARO, MARY CLARE JALONICK and LAURIE KELLMAN

Associated Press

WASHINGTON (AP) —

House Democrats are gauging support for a vote to formally authorize the impeachment inquiry as another official testified Tuesday in the deepening probe of President Donald Trump's efforts to have Ukraine investigate Joe Biden.

Speaker Nancy Pelosi is expected to meet privately with Democratic lawmakers later Tuesday to survey attitudes about a possible vote, according to people granted anonymity to discuss the planning.

She told reporters she'd have more to say "later," after the evening meeting with House colleagues.

Trump, who calls the impeachment inquiry an "illegitimate process," has pressured Pelosi to take a formal vote. Republicans want to test politically vulnerable Democrats with a roll call that could be difficult in areas where Trump remains popular. But Pelosi has so far resisted, saying Con-



Deputy Assistant Secretary of State George Kent, center, arrives on Capitol Hill in Washington, Tuesday, Oct. 15, 2019, as he is scheduled to testify before congressional lawmakers as part of the House impeachment inquiry into President Donald Trump.

Associated Press

gress is well within its power to conduct oversight of the executive branch as part of the Constitution's system

of checks and balances, and no vote is needed. Senate Majority Leader Mitch McConnell opened

the chamber on Tuesday suggesting Democrats were trying to "cancel out" Trump's election with the

march toward impeachment.

Continued on Page 4



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## Trump threatens to 'destroy' Turkey's economy with sanctions

By ROBERT BURNS

**AP National Security Writer**  
**WASHINGTON (AP)** — Targeting Turkey's economy, President Donald Trump announced sanctions aimed at restraining the Turks' assault against Kurdish fighters and civilians in Syria — an assault Turkey began after Trump announced he was moving U.S. troops out of the way.

Some of those U.S. troops leaving northern Syria are being shifted to Iraq, where they could conduct cross-border operations against Islamic State group militants, a U.S. official said.

The United States also called on Turkey to stop the invasion and declare a cease-fire, and Trump is sending Vice President Mike Pence and national



Vice President Mike Pence, with Treasury Secretary Steven Mnuchin, left, and national security adviser Robert O'Brien, speaks to reporters outside the West Wing of the White House, Monday, Oct. 14, 2019, in Washington.

Associated Press

security adviser Robert O'Brien to Ankara as soon

as possible in an attempt to begin negotiations. Pence said on Monday that Trump spoke directly to Turkish leader Recep Tayyip Erdogan, who promised not to attack the border town of Kobani, which in 2015 witnessed the Islamic State group's first defeat in a battle by U.S.-backed Kurdish fighters.

"President Trump communicated to him very clearly that the United States of America wants Turkey to stop the invasion, implement an immediate cease-fire and to begin to negotiate with Kurdish forces in Syria to bring an end to the violence," Pence said.

The Americans were scrambling for Syria's exits, a move criticized at home and abroad as opening the door to a resurgence of the Islamic State group, whose violent takeover of Syrian and Iraqi lands five years ago was the reason American forces went in the first place.

Trump said the approximately 1,000 U.S. troops who had been partnering with local Kurdish fighters

to battle the Islamic State in northern Syria are leaving the country. They will remain in the Middle East, he said, to "monitor the situation" and to prevent a revival of IS — a goal that even Trump's allies say has become much more difficult as a result of the U.S. pullout.

The U.S. troops being withdrawn from northern Syria will reposition in Iraq, Kuwait and possibly Jordan, according to the U.S. official, who spoke to The Associated Press on Tuesday on the condition of anonymity to discuss sensitive planning for the U.S. pullout.

The official said the American troops have pulled out of the Manbij area, where U.S. outposts were set up in 2017. Troops are consolidating their positions to prepare to fly out of the country soon.

The official said the U.S. troops in Iraq could perform operations against the IS militants in Syria as they did before creating the now-abandoned partnership with Kurdish-led Syrian Democratic Forces.

The Turks began attacks in Syria last week against the Syrian Kurdish fighters, whom the Turks see as terrorists.

On Monday, Syrian government troops moved north toward the border region, setting up a potential clash with Turkish-led forces.

Trump said Turkey's invasion is "precipitating a humanitarian crisis and setting conditions for possible war crimes," a reference to reports of Turkish-backed fighters executing Kurdish fighters on the battlefield.

The Kurdish forces previously allied with the U.S. said they had reached a deal with President Bashar Assad's government to help them fend off Turkey's invasion, a move that brings Russian forces deeper into the conflict.

In his sanctions announcement, Trump said he was halting negotiations on a \$100 billion trade deal with Turkey and raising steel tariffs back up to 50%. Trump also imposed sanctions on three senior Turkish officials and Turkey's defense and energy ministries.

"I am fully prepared to swiftly destroy Turkey's economy if Turkish leaders continue down this dangerous and destructive path," Trump said.

Treasury Secretary Steven Mnuchin said the sanctions will hurt an already weak Turkish economy. Pence said the U.S. will continue to ramp up the sanctions "unless Turkey is willing to embrace a cease-fire, come to the negotiating table and end the violence."

American troops consolidated their positions in northern Syria on Monday and prepared to evacuate equipment in advance of a full withdrawal, a U.S. defense official said. □

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# Appeals court to hold rehearing on Trump hotel lawsuit

By DENISE LAVOIE

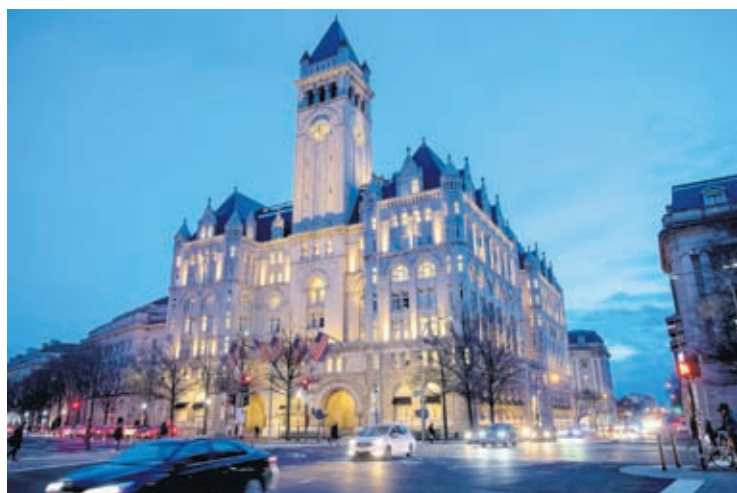
**RICHMOND, Va. (AP)** — A federal appeals court will reconsider a ruling from a three-judge panel that threw out a lawsuit accusing President Donald Trump of illegally profiting off the

cant legal victory. All three judges were nominated by Republican presidents. The panel found that the two jurisdictions lack standing to pursue claims against the president and granted a petition for a rare writ of

that argue the president is violating the emoluments provision, which prohibits federal officials from accepting benefits from foreign or state governments without congressional approval.

Trump's legal team had argued that Frosh and District of Columbia Attorney General Karl Racine — both Democrats — lack authority to sue the president in his official capacity. Trump's lawyers also argued that

the emoluments clause only bars compensation made in connection with services provided in his official capacity or in "an employment-type relationship" with a foreign or domestic government. □



In this Jan. 23, 2019, file photo, the Trump International Hotel near sunset in Washington.

Associated Press

presidency through his luxury Washington hotel. The Richmond-based 4th U.S. Circuit Court of Appeals agreed Tuesday to hold a hearing before the full court of 15 judges. Arguments are scheduled for Dec. 12. In a 2017 lawsuit, the state of Maryland and the District of Columbia accused Trump of violating the emoluments clause of the U.S. Constitution by accepting profits through foreign and domestic officials who stay at the Trump International Hotel. A federal judge in Maryland ruled that the lawsuit could move forward. But a three-judge panel of the 4th Circuit overturned that ruling in July, handing the president a signifi-

cant legal victory. All three judges were nominated by Republican presidents. The panel found that the two jurisdictions lack standing to pursue claims against the president and granted a petition for a rare writ of mandamus, directing U.S. District Court Judge Peter Messitte to dismiss the lawsuit. The decision to allow a full-court hearing brought renewed resolve from officials in Maryland and the District of Columbia, who argued that hotels in their jurisdictions suffer "competitive injury" because officials hoping to curry favor with the president are more likely to stay at his hotel. "Every single day, President Trump receives payments from foreign governments and from the United States. We intend to hold him accountable for violations of our nation's original anti-corruption laws," Maryland Attorney General Brian Frosh said in a statement. The case is one of three

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### Continued from Front

The inquiry is moving quickly as a steady stream of officials, largely from the State Department, are appearing behind closed doors this week, some providing vivid details about the events surrounding the July 25 phone call between Trump and Ukrainian President Volodymyr Zelenskiy, in which Trump urged Zelenskiy to investigate a firm tied to political rival Joe Biden's family and Ukraine's own involvement in the 2016 presidential election. In 10 hours of testimony Monday, a former White House aide, Fiona Hill, recounted that national security adviser John Bolton was so alarmed by Rudy Giuliani's back-channel activities in Ukraine that he described Trump's personal lawyer as a "hand grenade who is going to blow everybody up."

The former White House aide detailed Bolton's concerns to lawmakers and told them that she had at least two meetings with National Security Council lawyer John Eisenberg about the matter at Bolton's request, according to a person familiar with the testimony who requested anonymity to discuss the confidential interview. Hill, a top adviser on Russia, also discussed U.S. ambassador Gordon Sondland and acting White House chief of staff Mick Mulvaney, the person said, telling the three committees leading the investigation that Bolton also told her he was not part of "whatever drug deal Sondland and Mulvaney are cooking up," an apparent reference to talks over Ukraine.

Giuliani was heavily involved in the effort to pressure Ukraine on the investigations. He said Tuesday he was "very disappointed" in Bolton's comment. Bolton, Giuliani said, "has

been called much worse." Giuliani also acknowledged he had received payments totaling \$500,000 related to the work for a company operated by Lev Parnas who, along with associate Igor Fruman, played a key role in Giuliani's efforts to launch a Ukrainian corruption investigation against Biden and his son, Hunter. The two men were arrested last week on campaign finance charges as they tried to board an international flight.

Giuliani's attorney, Jon Sale, has notified lawmakers that Giuliani will not comply with a subpoena issued to appear before House investigators in the impeachment inquiry. Democrats set a Wednesday deadline for Giuliani to provide documents and it is unclear how they will respond to his refusal to comply.

On Tuesday, House investigators heard from Deputy Assistant Secretary of State George Kent, who was concerned about the "fake news smear" against the U.S. ambassador to Ukraine, Marie Yovanovitch, whom Trump recalled in May, according to emails obtained by The Associated Press.

The interviews, like the others conducted by House impeachment investigators, took place behind closed doors. Republican lawmakers have aimed their ire at the process, saying witnesses should be interviewed out in the open. Hill also told the investigators that she had strongly and repeatedly objected to Yovanovitch's ouster, according to the person familiar with the testimony. Yovanovitch testified to the impeachment investigators Friday that Trump pressured the State Department to fire her.

Hill quoted Bolton, whom Trump forced out last month, as saying in one conversation that Giu-



Rep. Adam Schiff, D-Calif., Chairman of the House Intelligence Committee, right, accompanied by House Speaker Nancy Pelosi of Calif., left, speaks about the House impeachment inquiry into President Donald Trump at a news conference on Capitol Hill in Washington, Tuesday, Oct. 15, 2019.

Associated Press

liani was "a hand grenade who's going to blow everybody up."

A whistleblower complaint about that call, later made public, prompted Pelosi to launch the impeachment inquiry.

Five more officials are scheduled this week, mostly from the State Department, though it is unclear if they will all appear after Trump declared he wouldn't cooperate with the probe. Sondland is expected to appear for a deposition under subpoena Thursday and will certainly be asked about those talks.

Sondland, who is the U.S. ambassador to the European Union, is expected to tell Congress that a text message released earlier this month reassuring another envoy that there was no quid pro quo in their interactions with Ukraine was based solely on what Trump told him, according to a person familiar with his coming testimony.

The cache of text messages was provided by one of the inquiry's first witnesses, former Ukrainian envoy Kurt Volker, and detailed attempts by the diplomats

to serve as intermediaries around the time Trump urged Zelenskiy to start the investigations into a company linked to Biden's son. Michael McKinley, a former top aide to Secretary of State Mike Pompeo who resigned last week, is scheduled to testify Wednesday. McKinley, a career foreign service officer and Pompeo's de facto chief of staff, resigned Friday, ending a 37-year career.

In the emails from March, Kent shares with other State Department officials a "daily update of the fake news driven smear out of Ukraine." The emails include news reports and other commentary, some from U.S. journalists, that "goes after Masha," as Yovanovitch was known.

While interviews have focused on the interactions with Ukraine, the probe could broaden as soon as next week to include interviews with White House budget officials who may be able to shed light on whether military aid was withheld from Ukraine as Trump and Giuliani pushed for the investigations.

The three committees lead-

ing the probe are seeking interviews next week with Russell Vought, acting director of the Office of Management and Budget, and Michael Duffey, another OMB official who leads national security programs, according to a person familiar with those requests. That person wasn't authorized to discuss the invitations and requested anonymity.

Once Democrats have completed the probe and followed any other threads it produces, they will use their findings to help determine whether to vote on articles of impeachment. Because of the Trump administration's edict, the Democrats have been subpoenaing witnesses as they arrived for their interviews — a move sometimes known as a "friendly" subpoena that could give the witnesses additional legal protection as they testify.

Top Democrats say testimony and evidence coming in from other witnesses, and even the Republican president himself, are backing up the whistleblower's account of Trump's July 25 phone with Zelenskiy. □



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## MeToo leader launches new hashtag to mobilize voters

By ERRIN HAINES  
AP National Writer

The founder of #MeToo is using the second anniversary of the movement to launch a new effort intended to mobilize voters heading into the 2020 election. The new hashtag #MeTooVoter was unveiled Tuesday, on the same day as the fourth Democratic presidential debate and reflects a frustration among activists that issues of sexual violence and harassment have largely been absent from the debate stage and campaign trail.

"You can't have 12 million people respond to a hashtag in this country and they not be constituents, taxpayers, and voters," #MeToo founder Tarana Burke said in an interview with The Associated Press. "We need these candidates to see us as a power base. So many people engage with survivors from a place of pity."

A record number of women are running in the 2020 Democratic field, and women will be a pivotal bloc in both the primary and the general election. Still, women are too often treated like a special interest group rather than the majority of the American electorate, said Ai-jen Poo, director of the National Domestic Workers Alliance, which is partnering with #MeToo on voter education, mobilization and turnout efforts over the next

year. "The whole point of #MeTooVoter is to say that survivors are a huge political force and incredibly motivated in this moment," Poo said. "We're going to be calling on anyone who's serious about governing and leading this country forward to actually answer for how they're going to make this country more safe."

Burke said that nearly a year into the Democratic primary, none of the 2020 hopefuls has spoken to her as they have shaped their presidential platforms, which she said points to a lack of urgency even amid a climate of increased awareness around the issue. She hopes #MeTooVoter will prompt debate moderators to ask a question about sexual violence at the next debate, but does not expect the topic to come up on Tuesday.

Whether #MeToo makes the debate stage or not, Burke said she is considering a town hall around the issue to hear more fully from candidates about their stances.

It was on the one-year anniversary of when #MeToo became a viral hashtag that Burke was still reeling from the confirmation of Supreme Court Justice Brett Kavanaugh, whose nomination hearing focused largely on allegations of sexual assault when he was a teenager.

The hearing, watched by



In this Friday, Oct. 11, 2019, photo Tarana Burke, founder and leader of the #MeToo movement, poses for a portrait in New York.

Associated Press

millions and seen as a major turning point in the MeToo movement, was seen by some women as a setback to efforts to hold men accountable for sexual violence. For Burke, the moment was a turning point.

"It was the first time we saw survivors en masse come out and put their bodies on the line for this issue," said Burke. "It was the moment I realized we had to form as an organization. People are willing to stand up, march, talk, come out in the rain. People are ready for this moment."

Supermajority co-founder Cecile Richards said the issue of sexual violence is something the organization, which is a #MeTooVoter partner, has identified as an election-year priority among women.

"Any candidate who wants the support of women, I hope understands the importance of speaking to the issues that are on the minds of millions of voters

in this country," Richards said. "Women don't feel safe in America. There's been very little conversation about this, and that's unacceptable." □


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# Los Angeles fire began under power lines, cause not known

Associated Press

**LOS ANGELES (AP)** — A destructive fire that exploded on the edge of Los Angeles began beneath a high-voltage transmission tower owned by Southern California Edison, fire officials said Monday.

Los Angeles Fire Department arson investigators determined the origin of the Saddle Ridge Fire was beneath power lines on a dry, steep hillside above the city's Sylmar neighborhood, Capt. Erik Scott told The Associated Press. The cause remained under investigation.

The fire that started Thursday night burned nearly 8,400 acres (13.1 square miles or 34 square kilometers), destroyed 17 structures and damaged dozens more. One man died of a heart attack during the fire in the Porter Ranch neighborhood, officials said.

The fire department had said Friday that a witness saw sparks or flames coming from a power line near where the fire was believed to have started. At least two people told LA TV stations that they saw fire near power lines above Saddle Ridge Road around the



In this Friday, Oct. 11, 2019, file photo, smoke from a wildfire called the Saddle Ridge Fire hangs above power lines as the sun rises in Newhall, Calif.

Associated Press

time the blaze broke out. After several deadly blazes in the past two years have been blamed on trees and vegetation hitting power lines and other causes involving electrical equipment, utilities have been given authority to shut off power when fire risk is extremely high.

Just two days before the Los Angeles fire broke out,

Pacific Gas & Electric Co. had cut power to nearly 2 million people in Northern California to prevent a repeat of catastrophic fires in that part of the state, including a blaze that destroyed the town of Paradise and killed 85 people. SoCal Edison had warned it might cut power to close to 200,000 customers in communities throughout the

region to prevent its equipment from sparking a wildfire. But it wasn't clear Monday if the fire originated in an area that could have had the power shut off preemptively.

SoCal Edison declined to comment on the fire's source. The utility reported to state regulators that its system was affected near the reported location and

time of the fire, spokeswoman Susan Cox said.

It filed the report Friday with the California Public Utilities Commission "out of an abundance of caution," Cox said. She did not have additional details such as the kind of system, how it was affected or what the effects were.

Electric utilities must file reports in four instances: when there is a fatality or injury that involves electric facilities, when there is damage to property over \$50,000, when there is significant media coverage, and when there is a major outage to at least 10% of the service territory at once, said Terrie Prosper, a spokeswoman for the commission.

The report is confidential and not publicly available, Prosper said.

The fire erupted Thursday night and was rapidly spread by strong Santa Ana winds.

Residents of Saddle Ridge Road said they fled their homes as gusts drove the flames down the hillside and tossed embers into the neighborhood, lighting trees and setting bushes ablaze. □



In this June 17, 2019 file photo, The Supreme Court is shown in Washington.

Associated Press

By **MARK SHERMAN**

Associated Press

**WASHINGTON (AP)** — The Supreme Court seems likely to leave in place the oversight board established by Congress to help Puerto Rico out of a devastating financial crisis that was deepened by Hurricane Maria in 2017.

The justices voiced skepti-

cism on Tuesday about a constitutional challenge to the oversight board's composition that could affect more than \$100 billion in debt and the island's economic future.

Hedge funds that invested in Puerto Rican bonds are leading the case against the board.

A lower court ruled in Feb-

## Justices seem likely to uphold Puerto Rico oversight board

ruary that board members were appointed in violation of the Constitution because they were not confirmed by the Senate.

The president selects the board's seven voting members. They and one other non-voting member chosen by Puerto Rico's governor approve budgets and fiscal plans drawn up by the island's government. The board also handles bankruptcy-like cases that allow the island to restructure its debts.

Justice Samuel Alito asked facetiously if it's "excessively cynical" to think that the hedge funds were more interested in the money at stake than the constitutional challenge they are

mounting.

The oversight board and the Trump administration appealed the ruling by the 1st U.S. Circuit Court of Appeals in Boston. There appeared to be substantial support for their arguments that the board's makeup is not controlled by the Constitution's provision on appointments, but by a different provision giving Congress significant control over U.S. territories, of which Puerto Rico is one. Legislation passed by Congress in 2016 directed the oversight board to act "on behalf of Puerto Rico and its people and its agencies," Justice Ruth Bader Ginsburg said.

The appeals court gave

the president time to rectify the problem by re-nominating the members and getting them approved by the Senate. President Donald Trump has sent the nominations to the Senate, which has not acted on them while the court case is pending.

Even if the justices uphold the lower court ruling against the board, it could simultaneously also ratify the actions it has taken to date because throwing them out would be very disruptive to the island's recovery.

A decision is expected relatively quickly because the court agreed to review and decide the case much faster than usual. □



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A tank burns as fire breaks out at a refinery in Crockett, Calif., on Tuesday, Oct. 15, 2019.

Associated Press

## California oil facility fire prompts warnings to residents

**CROCKETT, Calif. (AP)** — A fire at an oil storage facility in the San Francisco Bay Area prompted a hazardous materials emergency Tuesday afternoon that led authorities to order about 12,000 people in two communities to stay inside with all windows and doors closed.

Thick plumes of black smoke and flames filled the skyline around the NuStar Energy LP facility in Crockett, California, about 30 miles (50 kilometers) north-east of San Francisco.

"This is a very dynamic, rapidly evolving situation," said Capt. George Laing of the Contra Costa Fire Department. "We've got two tanks that are releasing chemicals that are still burning."

The Contra Costa Health Department posted on Twitter that there was a "hazardous materials emergency" in the towns of Crockett, home to about 3,100 people, and Rodeo,

population 8,700. The department urged residents to stay inside and close all windows and doors.

"Cover any cracks around doors or windows with tape or damp towels. Stay off the phone unless you need to report a life-threatening emergency at your location."

The city of Vallejo also tweeted that its residents should stay inside.

Contra Costa Fire Department spokesman Steve Hill said that an hour into battling the blaze, which started around 2 p.m., firefighters seemed to be making progress and were keeping adjacent tanks cooled with water. Interstate 80 was closed. Officials said they did not immediately know the cause of the fire and whether there was any connection to a 4.5-magnitude earthquake Monday night centered in the East Bay city of Pleasant Hill, north of Oakland. □



Marnie Wedgwood hugs her son after an improvised explosive device detonated on the Rossiter Elementary school playground Tuesday, Oct. 15, 2019, in Helena, Mont.

Associated Press

## Bomb scare at Montana school turns out to be false alarm

By **AMY BETH HANSON**  
Associated Press

**HELENA, Mont. (AP)** — Authorities evacuated an elementary school in Montana's capital city on Tuesday after officials found what they thought were the remnants of a homemade bomb, but it turned out to be a plastic bottle filled with nuts and bolts left in the schoolyard.

School officials made the discovery shortly before classes began at Rossiter Elementary School. They blocked off the area and called 911 at about 8:20 a.m., said Lewis and Clark County Sheriff Leo Dutton.

An investigation found the plastic bottle wrapped in black electrical tape was full of washers, nuts and bolts, along with a non-flammable unidentified liquid, Dutton said. There was

no detonator attached to the bottle.

A homeless person found the bottle at a construction site and left it at the playground, he said. No threat had been made against the school, and there were no injuries or damage.

"Pretty much it's solved," Dutton said Tuesday afternoon. "We know who put it there and it wasn't malicious. It did look like a bomb. The school acted appropriately."

The 490 students walked to a nearby location where they could be picked up by their parents, said Superintendent Tyler Ream. School buses kept them warm.

Police closed the school and searched the grounds for additional devices, and thousands of students across Helena and East Helena were kept inside

while authorities swept for bombs, authorities said.

Searches also were conducted at the state Capitol and government buildings, Dutton said.

The deputies who responded initially believed it was a bomb, Dutton said. "They were looking at a debris field, what looked like a debris field," he said.

"It wasn't until we could get the bomb squad in there and the evidence team that we learned exactly what it was," Dutton said. "You wouldn't expect any patrol deputy to pick it up and look at it and possibly injure himself or others."

Classes were scheduled to resume Wednesday, said Ream, who planned to meet with teachers and staff to discuss how they would explain Tuesday's events to the children. □



# EU: Brexit deal still possible this week but UK must act now

**LUXEMBOURG (AP)** — A Brexit divorce deal is still possible ahead of this week's European Union summit, the bloc said Tuesday — but only if the British government makes more compromises to seal an agreement in the coming hours.

Even though many questions remain, diplomats made it clear that both sides were for the first time within touching distance since an earlier U.K. withdrawal plan fell apart in the British House of Commons in March.

Britain is scheduled to leave the EU on Oct. 31, and this week's EU leaders' meeting — the last scheduled summit before the Brexit deadline — was long considered the last opportunity to approve a divorce agreement. British Prime Minister Boris Johnson insists his country will leave at the end of the month with or without an agreement, but British lawmakers are determined to avoid a no-deal Brexit.

EU Brexit negotiator Michel Barnier said at a meeting of EU ministers that the main



European Union chief Brexit negotiator Michel Barnier, right, shakes hands with Irish Foreign Minister Simon Coveney during a meeting of EU General Affairs ministers, Article 50, at the European Convention Center in Luxembourg, Tuesday, Oct. 15, 2019.

Associated Press

challenge now is to turn the new British proposals on the complex Irish border issue into something binding. EU member Ireland has a land border with the U.K.'s Northern Ireland, and both want to keep goods and people flowing freely across the

currently invisible border. A frictionless border underpins both the local economy and the 1998 peace accord that ended decades of Catholic-Protestant violence in Northern Ireland. But once Britain exits, that border will turn into

an external EU frontier that the bloc wants to keep secure.

Barnier said it's "high time to turn good intentions into a legal text." He wants a clear answer by Wednesday morning, so EU capitals can prepare for the bloc's two-day summit that begins Thursday.

"Even if an agreement will be difficult — more and more difficult, we think — it is still possible this week," Barnier said.

The big question is how far Johnson's government is prepared to budge on its insistence that the U.K., including Northern Ireland, must leave the European Union's customs union — something that would require checks on goods passing between the Britain and the EU, including on the island of Ireland.

The government has given away little detail of the proposals it has made to the EU to remove that requirement.

Johnson's spokesman, James Slack, rejected suggestions Britain had only until the end of the day to firm up its proposals but said "the prime minister is aware of the time constraints that we are under."

On Tuesday, Johnson called French President

Emmanuel Macron — one of the EU leaders most skeptical about Britain's intentions — to discuss where elements of a compromise could be found. Slack called the conversation "constructive."

Irish Foreign Minister Simon Coveney, who had a long, intense talk with Barnier early Tuesday, said the EU believes a deal "is difficult, but it is doable." He said Barnier addressed EU ministers and "did point to progress in the last number of days where the gaps have been narrowed."

A senior German official wouldn't rule out a Brexit agreement in principle by Wednesday afternoon, but stressed the importance of the specifics — and how time consuming they will be to work out.

"The basis for our decisions are legal texts in which the details are settled," the official, who briefed reporters on condition of anonymity in line with department rules, said in Berlin. "But there has been progress, and as always in these negotiations the biggest progress happens over the final meters."

Late Monday, Dutch Foreign Minister Stef Blok said the British proposals to keep the Irish border protected from smuggling and fraud once it leaves the bloc were insufficient.

"The U.K. proposal contained some steps forward but not enough to guarantee that the internal market will be protected," Blok said.

EU ministers insisted it was Johnson's turn to make the next move — and he seemed to be listening. In addition to the call with Macron, Johnson shifted Britain's weekly Cabinet meeting from Tuesday to Wednesday, so he could give his ministers a better idea of Brexit progress.

If talks fail or stumble ahead of the EU summit, there could always be an extraordinary meeting just ahead of the Oct. 31 Brexit departure — or the Brexit deadline could be extended again. It has already been postponed twice. □

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Your online Aruba restaurant guide

## German security services want more powers to fight extremism

By FRANK JORDANS

**BERLIN (AP)** — Germany's security services said Tuesday they're seeking greater powers to fight the kind of far-right extremism behind last week's synagogue attack, including requiring internet companies to report illegal hate speech to police.

A 27-year-old German man previously unknown to police confessed to carrying out the attack in the eastern city of Halle in which two people were killed Wednesday.

The suspected gunman, identified by prosecutors only as Stephan B. due to privacy rules, allegedly built the firearms he used with the help of online instructions, posted an anti-Semitic screed before the attack and later broadcast the shooting live on a popular gaming site.



A man mourns as he taking part in a human chain around the Jewish synagogue during the Sabbath celebrations in Halle, Germany, Friday, Oct. 11, 2019.

Associated Press

In response to the attack and previous incidents, German officials have

called for more officers to be devoted to tackling far-right extremism and a

greater focus on online platforms they say are increasingly being used as

a means of spreading far-right radicalism and linking up with like-minded people in a way already seen with Islamist extremism.

Thomas Haldenwang, who heads the BfV domestic intelligence agency, said the attack in Halle and similar shootings in Texas, New Zealand and Norway showed the need for security services to get better tools to tackle online extremism. In particular, he called for authorities to be given permission to install monitoring software on suspect's devices so as to read their encrypted communication.

Holger Muench, head of the Federal Criminal Police Office, said online threats and acts of violence are creating a "climate of fear" in Germany that is deterring people from volunteering for public office. □

## France OKs bill legalizing IVF for lesbians, single women

Associated Press

**PARIS (AP)** — France's lower house of parliament on Tuesday overwhelmingly passed a bill that aims to give single women and lesbian couples legal access to in vitro fertilization, egg freezing and fertility medication.

The assisted reproduction measures are part of a broader bioethics bill voted by the National Assembly, the lower house, where French President Emmanuel Macron's government has a majority. The bill passed 359-114. It must still go to the Senate for de-

bate.

France's health care system would cover the cost of the assisted reproduction procedures for all women under 43.

French law currently allows in vitro fertilization and related procedures only for infertile heterosexual couples. Many ineligible French women travel abroad to undergo IVF treatment.

Sandrine Rudnicki, 38, a single woman who lives near Orleans in central France, went to Denmark for IVF treatment and now is the mother of a 10-month-old daughter, Emilia.

She said she's "delighted" in-vitro fertilization is set to become legal for women like her because she feels like her family of two is "not accepted" under the current situation.

Rudnicki estimated it cost about 10,000 euros (\$10,997), travel included, for her to get IVF in another country.

"This erases all sorts of inequalities," she said added. Lesbian couples, single women or both already have legal access to medically assisted reproduction in 18 of the European Union's 28 countries. □



Sandrine Rudnicki, a 38 years old single woman smiles to her 10-month old daughter Emilia who was conceived through in-vitro fertilization, Monday Oct.14, 2019 in Saint-Pryve-Saint-Mesmin, near Orleans, France.

Associated Press



# Foreigners exit northeastern Syria fearing government reach

Associated Press

**SEMELKA, Syria (AP)** — It was a sign of the sudden transformation sweeping Kurdish-run northeast Syria: foreign aid workers and journalists packed this border crossing on Monday, rushing to get out to Iraq. The exodus was not propelled by the Turkish offensive launched last week. Instead, it was the return of Syria's central government to the region, where Kurdish administrators have had virtual self-rule for years. The rush to leave reflected the sudden and dramatic nosedive of the aspirations of Syria's Kurdish minority for autonomy. The Kurdish-led administration itself invited Syrian government troops to the area to defend against the Turkish assault after the U.S. abandoned them and began pulling its soldiers out.

Foreigners who had entered "Rojava" —as the Kurds call their region— now woke up to uncertainty over who would be in charge. If back with Damascus in control, they would effectively be in the country illegally.

The departing foreigners were the main activity at the Semelka crossing Monday. The truck lane of the usually bustling commer-



People pass a giant banner with a portrait of jailed leader of the Kurdistan Workers' Party, or PKK, Abdullah Ocalan, center, with other portraits of killed Kurdish fighters, set at the border crossing between Iraq and Syria's Kurdish-held, in Semelka, northeast Syria, Monday Oct. 14, 2019.

Associated Press

cial gateway was empty — one pick-up with sheep in the back stood in the parking lot. Dozens of Syrians waited to cross into Iraq. Though few organizations made official announcements, it appeared almost all foreigners working for aid groups were leaving. Dozens of foreign journalists covering the offensive also pulled out, fearing getting caught in the government's

security web.

The Kurds set up their administration in the northeast after the Syrian government pulled out its troops seven years ago to fight rebels elsewhere at the height of the civil war. When Islamic State militants swarmed their areas, the Kurds allied with the United States to fight them.

With oil resources recaptured from IS, water re-

sources and millions of dollars in foreign aid, the Kurdish-led administration set up functioning institutions and has pushed ahead with reconstruction and development after the devastation of the war on IS. Aid workers, construction firms and contractors were drawn to the area. Even exiled Kurds returned.

But Rojava was never recognized by Damascus or

the international community. Its administration of Semelka, the territory's only crossing to the outside world, was informal.

"This is our nightmare scenario," said Made Ferguson, Mercy Corps' deputy country director for Syria, which had to pull its international staff out of northeastern Syria.

"There are tens of thousands of people on the run and we have no way of getting to them. We've had to pull our international staff out of northeast Syria. We just cannot effectively operate with the heavy shelling, roads closing, and the various and constantly changing armed actors in the areas where we are working."

The U.S.-based group warned that the humanitarian crisis is set to worsen. Already the fighting has displaced nearly 130,000 Syrians.

An international aid worker at the border crossing Monday said nearly all 250 foreign aid workers in northeast Syria, operating with dozens of groups, were leaving. De-miners also pulled out. The worker spoke on condition of anonymity because most organizations were not making their moves public. □

# Wildfires spread through parts of Lebanon, Syria



A Lebanese fireman extinguishes a fire near Beirut, Lebanon, Tuesday, Oct. 15, 2019.

Associated Press

By HASSAN AMMAR

Associated Press

**DAMOUR, Lebanon (AP)** — Wildfires spread through parts of Lebanon on Tuesday after forcing some residents to flee their homes

in the middle of the night, while others were stuck inside as the flames reached villages south of Beirut, authorities said.

A heat wave in the region coupled with strong winds

intensified the fires that began a day earlier in mostly pine forests around the country and three provinces in neighboring Syria. There were no reports of fatalities from the fires — among the worst to hit Lebanon in years.

Fire crews were overwhelmed by the flames in the Mount Lebanon region early Tuesday, forcing the Interior Ministry to send riot police with engines equipped with water cannons to help. Two small aircraft were sent from the nearby Mediterranean island of Cyprus to help put out the flames.

"Your planes are now fighting fires in Lebanon as we speak here," Lebanon's

Defense Minister Elias Bou Saab said during a visit to Cyprus.

Lebanon's Prime Minister Saad Hariri said if the fires turn out to be intentional those behind it "will pay a price." Hariri added that an investigation will be opened to know what caused the fires.

In Damour, a coastal village south of Beirut, more than a dozen charred cars w on the side of a road. Most of the homes nearby escaped the damage.

The state has been widely criticized by residents because Lebanon bought three aircraft several years ago to be used in extinguishing fires but they have been parked at Beirut's

airport with no money to maintain them.

As the fires raged overnight, a correspondent burst into tears while live on TV, saying she could hear people scream for help inside their homes but no one could reach them.

Interior Minister Raya El Hassan said Greece would send two aircraft in response to a request from Lebanon, adding that Jordan has also expressed readiness to send assistance to Beirut.

In neighboring Syria, fires spread in the coastal provinces of Latakia and Tartus, as well as the central province of Homs, but authorities there brought all the fires under control. □



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## Sri Lanka presidential hopeful says won't honor deal with UN

By KRISHAN FRANCIS  
COLOMBO, Sri Lanka (AP)

— A former Sri Lankan defense chief who is a front-runner in next month's presidential election said Tuesday that if he wins, he won't recognize an agreement the government made with the U.N. human rights council to investigate alleged war crimes during the nation's civil war.

If Gotabaya Rajapaksa wins the Nov. 16 election and follows through with his comments, it would be a severe setback to Sri Lanka's post-war reconciliation process.

"We will always work with the United Nations, but I can't recognize what they have signed" with past Sri Lankan governments, Rajapaksa said at a news conference.



Sri Lankan presidential candidate and former defense chief Gotabaya Rajapaksa speaks during a news conference in Colombo, Sri Lanka, Tuesday, Oct. 15, 2019.

Associated Press

ference.

"We have already rejected that, as a party we have

rejected that agreement and in public we have rejected that. ... On this issue,

our policies and the present government policies are far apart," he said.

Rajapaksa was the top defense official during the last few years of the long civil war, which ended in 2009, serving under his brother, then-President Mahinda Rajapaksa. Under their watch, Sri Lankan forces were accused of targeting hospitals and killing civilians and rebels who surrendered to the military at the end of the war, which saw the military defeat Tamil rebels who were fighting for an independent state for minority ethnic Tamils.

Rajapaksa is accused by opponents of being behind men in mysterious vehicles whisking away rebel suspects, journalists and activists. Many people taken away in the so-called "white van abductions" were never seen again. □

## China says postal fees to rise after US complaint

BEIJING (AP) — Fees paid by China to the United States and other countries to deliver packages will nearly triple through 2025 under an agreement by the global postal union following complaints by Washington, the Chinese post office said Tuesday. Payments will rise 27% next year and by 164% in total through 2025 under the Sept. 25 agreement by members of the Universal Postal Union, the State Postal Bureau said in a statement.

The Trump administration complained the U.S. Post Office was subsidizing Chinese exporters, which it said pay too little to deliver the vast volume of packages generated by online commerce. Washington threatened to pull out of the 192-member group, which other members said would disrupt global postal operations. The increase will "push up the cost of cross-border e-commerce logistics in China, bringing a certain impact," a deputy director

of the postal bureau, Gao Hongtao, said in the statement.

Gao said the impact on China overall should be small because fees paid to its post office also will increase.

The U.S. complaint centered on reimbursement for delivering "bulky letters and small parcels," usually weighing more than 2 kilograms (4½ pounds). They can include high-value items such as mobile phones, memory sticks or pharmaceuticals. □



Women walk by a China Post mailbox in Beijing, Tuesday, Oct. 15, 2019.

Associated Press



# Mexico: Families of slain police angry, AMLO defends policy

By MARK STEVENSON

MORELIA, Mexico (AP) —

Grieving family members of the 13 police officers killed in an apparent cartel ambush gathered outside a funeral home in the Mexican state of Michoacan on Tuesday, many of them angry at the government and police chiefs they believe sent their loved ones to a certain death.

"The good ones are here," said the brother of slain officer Marco Antonio González, 20, gesturing at the massive funeral hall.

"And those responsible for this, they are also here," he said just as the state's police chief and his top brass got out of cars. The man and other relatives refused to give their names for fear of reprisals.

More than 30 suspected cartel gunmen waylaid the police officers in the town of El Aguaje on Monday as they were traveling in a convoy to serve a warrant. Nine officers were also wounded in the worst attack on Mexican law enforcement in years, in a western state where violence blamed on drug gangs has jumped in recent months.



Police escort a caravan of funeral vehicles transporting the bodies of Mexican police officers killed in an apparent cartel ambush, in Morelia, Mexico, Tuesday, Oct. 15, 2019.

Associated Press

President Andrés Manuel López Obrador called the attack "regrettable" but said he remains committed to his security approach emphasizing underlying social problems, which he often references as "hugs, not bullets," in the face of national homicide figures that have been setting all-time highs.

"We are going to continue with our strategy,"

López Obrador said Tuesday, adding he is "optimistic" that peace can be achieved in the country.

"This is a violent area and we are going to continue addressing the causes that create this social decomposition," the president said. "For us it is very important for there to be well-being, that peace with justice can be achieved ... and also avoiding that authori-

ties mix with crime."

Signs left at the scene of the attack in the town of El Aguaje, Aguililla municipality, were apparently signed by the Jalisco New Generation cartel, one of Mexico's most powerful gangs.

At the funeral home in the state capital, Morelia, relatives of the dead described a situation in which relatively young, new, lightly armed police were sent in

to confront hardened foes with heavier armament, without any support.

González graduated from the police academy just nine months earlier; he left behind a 1-year-old son and a wife who is five months pregnant.

"They asked for help, reinforcements, and it never arrived," his brother said, alluding to recordings of desperate radio calls sent out as the convoy came under intense fire.

The attackers let loose with munitions including .50 caliber sniper rifles and AR-15 and AK-47 assault rifles, and at least some were in armored vehicles, state prosecutors said. Some of the officers' bodies were still inside patrol trucks when they were set on fire.

Gonzalez's brother suggested there must have been an informant and the officers were set up.

"They say this is not going to go unpunished, when we know that in this state everything goes unpunished," the officer's uncle said.

El Aguaje is the reputed birthplace of Nemesio "Mencho" Oseguera, leader of the hyper-violent Jalisco New Generation. □

# 7-story building collapses in Brazil; 1 dead, others trapped

By MAURICIO SAVARESE

Associated Press

RIO DE JANEIRO (AP) — A seven-story building collapsed Tuesday in an upscale part of the Brazilian city of Fortaleza, killing one person and leaving others trapped with some communicating with family members by cellphone from under debris, officials said.

Fire department commander Cleyton Bezerra said nine people were missing, though it was unclear if they were under the rubble or just unreachable by relatives and friends. Ten survivors have been found along with an unidentified body.

"It is a difficult situation; there are parts (of the building) that can still collapse," said Bezerra, who led the rescue operation.



Firefighters search for people who are trapped after a building collapsed in Fortaleza, Ceara state, Brazil, Tuesday, Oct. 15, 2019.

Associated Press

Authorities in the city of 2.6 million inhabitants in Brazil's northeast said two trapped people were communicating with relatives and rescuers by phone. Rescuers urged people at the site to be silent to allow them to

hear noises in the rubble. "For now we are trying to hear sounds that indicate where people are. There are several layers of debris," said fire department spokesman Romario Fernandes. He said the rescue

operation is expected to last days.

Witnesses said they saw people in the building shortly before it collapsed. Daiane Moreira was working next to the building when it collapsed.

"I just heard a boom and the building came down at once. A man came out drenched in blood and with a broken arm; he was the only one we could help," Moreira told journalists at the scene, as relatives and friends of building residents wept and waited for information.

Francineudo Rodrigues criticized the maintenance of the building where his father Francisco has worked as a doorman for eight years.

"I've seen cracks in columns; I've seen many problems that were not solved since

I started coming here," Rodrigues told journalists.

Rodrigues, who also does jobs at the building, said his father is alive at a local hospital.

"Nothing ever changed in this building. It is the same as what I saw when my father started working here," he said.

Fortaleza Mayor Roberto Claudio said it was not immediately clear what caused the building to collapse. He promised a "rigorous investigation."

"The only information we have is that it was an old building. We don't have specific information on licenses, permissions," Claudio said.

The building is located in central Fortaleza about 2 miles (3 kilometers) south of the Iracema beach, one of the city's top tourist spots. □



## Urban Chic in Tropical Beach Décor: Coral Shell Condominiums is made with Family Love



**ORANJESTAD** —The Caribbean is a paradisiacal place where anyone would like to own their own condo to enjoy family, retirement, sun, sand and sea, and leisure. Making the perfect choice for that perfect place in the jungle of offerings can be a hassle. Well, in case you are looking for the best in all senses, Coral Shell is a must-see. We will tell you why.

The best comes from the heart and in the case of Coral Shell Condominiums it is the owners who built this place as their own home. Actually it is their own home as they will live in one of the exclusive condominiums themselves. Marisabel and Albert are a warm, genuine, hard-working and driven-by-perfectionism and passion kind of couple. They do not only care for the luxury private residence they are building but take the environment into consideration in their concept as they are the park-keepers of the adjacent Boy Ecury Park. Aruba Today was shown around by the owner who while explaining all the beauty that surrounds us mentions he is a medical specialist in origin. That explains his accuracy with every tiny detail and his decision for only the best quality products. There are 16 apartments in the range from one, two, three, four and five bedrooms.

### The building

The building is unique with 2 centimeter thick marble floors, exterior façade in Dominican Coral Stone, walls with concrete blocks – not dry wall, double glass windows with UV protection and sound control, a double system of air conditioning, sound control and waterproof mat under marble floor to isolate noise, fire and gas detectors in all apartments, laundry rooms and each kitchen has an InSinkErator.

The impeccable architecture is inspiring; appearing to have an art-museum vibe. Correct, says Albert, the architect is inspired by Spanish artist Gaudi among others. The walls seem to flow in a natural way and fit perfectly into the sun-lit place and surrounding colors of nature. The kitchens are all 100% Italian brand and even installed by Italians who call this place “Palazzo”. “They said to have installed kitchens all over the world but never saw a condominium residence where all is matched so perfectly,” the owners say. “I can say with pride that this is the most exclusive condominium in the Caribbean.”



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## Tierra del Sol Restaurant gets Incredible Makeover



**NOORD** — The Restaurant at Tierra del Sol will create a whole new look just for you! The restaurant will be closed for renovations which is due to be ready beginning of December. Do not worry to miss out on the delicious food though because lunch and early dinner can daily be enjoyed at the 19th Hole Bar at the pool from 11:00 AM to 8:00 PM.

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island's rugged north coast and Blue Ocean forming your panoramic from a masterfully sculpted 18 beautiful holes of championship golf by Robert Trent Jones II. Your play field combines the elements of wind, sea, and earth in perfect harmony. You may even encounter goats and the local burrowing owls named 'shocos'. Welcome to nature, welcome to the greatness of a new experience.

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**PALM BEACH** — Recently, Mr. Jonathan Boekhoudt had the great pleasure to honor loyal and friendly visitors of Aruba as Distinguished Visitors at their home away from home. The symbolic honorary title is presented on behalf of the Minister of Tourism, as a token of appreciation to the guests who visit Aruba between 10-20-35 and more consecutive years.

The honorees were the lovely lady **Kathleen Smothers**, resident of Decatur Georgia and the great couple **William & Sonia Giannetti** residents of West Chester Pennsylvania.

The honorees had many reasons why they keep coming back to the island year after year. They love the warm inviting sun, the kindness of the people of Aruba, the absolute feeling of safety everywhere and anytime and the great selection of restaurants.

Boekhoudt together with Jenny Boekhoudt, member of Marriott Surf Club, thanked them for choosing Aruba as their vacation destination and as their home away from home for so many years. ☐



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## Aruba to me

ORANJESTAD – We would like to portrait you! By inviting you to send us your favorite vacation picture while enjoying our Happy Island. Complete the sentence: Aruba to me is ..... Send your picture with that text (including your name and where you are from) to: [news@arubaday.com](mailto:news@arubaday.com) and we will publish your vacation memory. Isn't that a special way to keep your best moments alive? Please do note: By submitting photos, text or any other materials, you give permission to the Aruba Today Newspaper, Caribbean Speed Printers and any of its affiliated companies to use said materials, as well as names, likeness, etc. for promotional purposes without compensation.

Last but not least: check out our website and Facebook page! Thank you for supporting our free newspaper, we strive to make you a happy reader every day again.

We received a great picture from **John & Michelle Marone** from Saint Augustine, Florida. They wrote:

**"Aruba to us is..... Calming!"**





## Fruit Loose & Veggie Boost



Fresh fruits make a tropical holiday's picture complete. Whether you see the mango's hanging in the trees or the fresh fruit cocktail on the side table of your pool bed, the link is there: you are in the tropics. Aruba grows her own fruits and veggies and there are some pretty out-of-space local species you may never had heard of, but really healthy and delicious.

### Druif

There is no chance you did not bump into one of the sea grape trees while spending your vacation on Aruba. The sea grape

plant is often used in ocean-side landscaping in sandy soil right on the beach and it produces clusters of fruit that resemble grapes. Are sea grapes edible? Yes, they are. Animals enjoy sea grapes and humans can eat them as well, and they are used to make jam. They contain very low calories and sugar, enabling good bacterium to digest food and excrete waste quickly which is effective in preventing constipation. Season: Sep-Oct.

### Shimaruku

Maybe Aruba's most popular wild fruit tree. You may have noticed cars at the side of the road and people picking those red berries. Well, that's Shimaruku. The local habit to stop for these delicious fruits goes from generation to generation. Its fruit's degree of sour depends on the amount of rain it gets. Red Shimarukus tend to taste better than orange. The fruit has super power: a true vitamin bomb. Adults only need to eat 3-4 of these berries to meet their daily recommended amount of Vitamin C. Season: Rainy months (Oct-Jan).



When it comes to veggies the island certainly offers a home-grown selection. They taste delicious and have their specific talents to boost your immune system. Start the day with a 'batida' (smoothie) enriched with a local veggie touch or select your restaurant that offers local vegetable dishes to get the real pure taste of it.

### Jambo

Family of Okra, also known as 'lady's fingers': a green flowering plant. Okra belongs to the same plant family as hibiscus and cotton. A classic favorite dish in Aruba is Sopi di Jambo. It has long been favored as a food for the health-conscious. It contains potassium, vitamin B, vitamin C, folic acid, and calcium. It's low in calories and has a high dietary fiber content. Recently, a new benefit of

including okra in your diet is being considered. Okra has been suggested to help manage blood sugar in cases of type 1, type 2, and gestational diabetes. Season: year-round.

### Bonchi' Cunucu

A long, small bean, boiled for a side dish or snack. Long beans have a chewy, crunchy texture—more so than snap beans—and a flavor reminiscent of the dry navy bean or asparagus. Besides stir-fry, soups and salads, the long bean is a good choice for stewing, braising (to remain chewy and firm), sautéing, shallow frying, and deep frying. With cooking, the long bean's bean flavor intensifies. Long beans are low in calories, about 45 calories per cup, and rich in vitamin A and also contain vitamin C and potassium. Season: year-round. □





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## Today's Happening



# A weekly calendar with a selection of what's going on in Aruba

**Wednesday 16**

### California Lighthouse Experience

- Climb to the top of the California Lighthouse to see the best views of the island!
- From 9 AM till 5 PM
- Hudishibana 2, Westpunt
- Facebook Aruba Walking Tours



**Thursday 17**

### Passionate Violin tunes and Dinner at Bohemian

- Bohemian Restaurant is different, unconventional and a rebel with a cause. The cause is to make you feel king in this hidden garden with outstanding dishes that connect you to the European liaisons of Aruba. TONIGHT has an extra magic: the live Violinist Angela performs!
- From 6:00PM
- In front of Barcelo Aruba
- Facebook: Bohemian

**Friday 18**

### Discover Local Art at Renaissance Marketplace

- Every Friday Night the Renaissance Marketplace transforms into a local art exhibition where you can see, touch or buy art pieces locally made by local artisans. Start your weekend with many dining options, Live musical entertainment, movie premieres and many more. The perfect way to relax and enjoy life.
- From 7 – 10 PM
- Renaissance Marketplace, Oranjestad
- Facebook Renaissance Marketplace



### Saturday 19 Shoco ArtFest 2019

- If you are looking to get a glimpse of Aruba's creative community you don't want to miss out on this unique art-honoring event. Ten different local artists will be displaying their creativity in different types of art. There will be wood and rock sculptures, airbrush and paintbrush art, art on wheels, bikes & trucks, tattoo demonstrations, murals and local art vendors. Entrance is FREE!!
- From 5 :00– 10:00 PM
- Camacuri Motorworld, Oranjestad
- Facebook Shoco artfest 2019

**Sunday 20**

### Concert of Guitarist Luis Quintero

- A performer overflowed with virtuosity". And now you can experience this too as Quintero will perform here in Aruba. In Sunday's concert Quintero will majestically demonstrate how the guitar has developed into a musical instrument for which many famous composers from all over the world score. His program contains works by the French Armenian Laurent Boutros; the Hungarian János Gáspár Mertz; the Brazilian João Pernambuco; the Venezuelans Ignacio Figueredo and Antonio Lauro; and works of his own.
- 11:00 AM-2:00 PM
- Cas di Cultura, Aruba's house of Culture, Oranjestad
- Facebook Arubaanse Kunstkring



**Monday 21**

### Joy of Aruba

- Joy of Aruba is performed at the Divi Divi Hotel by the Popcorn Dancers, one of Aruba's best Youth Dance Group. The performers will be presenting the most popular folkloric & modern music and dance of the island of Aruba. The Popcorn Dancers are determined to bring pleasure for your eyes, ears, heart & soul.
- From 8:30-9:30 p.m.
- Divi & Tamarijn aruba All Inclusive
- Facebook Dream, Dare, Do- Aruba



**Tuesday 22**

### Taco Tuesday's

- Lola is an authentic Mexican taqueria in the heart of Aruba's Palm Beach. Lola is sure to delight your palate and stimulate your taste buds with fresh tacos, sumptuous cocktails, and an unmatched, groovy vibe. Every Tuesday they are slinging crazy specials your way!
- From 5:00 PM- 1:00 AM
- At the high rise strip next to Craft



# SPORTS



Lanto Griffin lines up his putt on the eighth green during the fourth round of the Houston Open golf tournament Sunday, Oct. 13, 2019, in Houston.  
Associated Press

## Griffin values free golf lesson from a caring pro

By DOUG FERGUSON  
AP Golf Writer  
PONTE VEDRA BEACH, Fla. (AP) — Steve Prater can recall only one time in more than 30 years as a PGA professional that he refused payment for a golf lesson.  
Lanto Griffin doesn't know where he would be without it.  
He certainly would not be spending six hours Tuesday scrolling through 475 text messages of congratulations in between a dozen interviews as the Houston Open champion. He would not be looking out the window at the TPC Sawgrass and realizing he'll be part of the field next March at The Players Championship, followed by his debut a month later at Augusta National for the Masters.

Continued on Page 23

## CARDS SHARK



## Nats a win from 1st World Series

Washington Nationals starting pitcher Stephen Strasburg throws during the first inning of Game 3 of the baseball National League Championship Series against the St. Louis Cardinals Monday, Oct. 14, 2019, in Washington.

Associated Press  
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# Cup champion Blues visit Trump at White House as full team

By **STEPHEN WHYNO** AP  
Hockey Writer

**WASHINGTON (AP)** — President Donald Trump honored the Stanley Cup champion St. Louis Blues on Tuesday, using the occasion to announce an envoy to Turkey, mention the economy and an agriculture deal with China and laugh off the possibility of impeachment.

For the Blues, it was more of a last chance to celebrate the first title in franchise history than a political statement. Like previous NHL champions, they decided to keep with the long-held tradition of visiting the president at the White House amid teams from the NBA and other leagues either declining or not receiving an invitation or being disinvited by Trump.

St. Louis has a heavy concentration of Canadians and just one American still on the roster from the group that beat the Boston Bruins in the Cup Final. Every returning player from the Cup champions took the tour, met with Trump and was present for the ceremony in the Rose Garden.

"No matter what we do, we do it as a group," alternate captain Alex Steen said. "I think that's how we won. We're a very tight-knit group."

Trump veered off into talk about bringing soldiers home from overseas and the stock market and revealed Vice President Mike Pence was traveling to Turkey to try to reach a cease-fire deal. When he circled back to the Blues, he went through their improbable run from last place in the league to champions with nods to Steen, owner Tom Stillman, captain Alex Pietrangolo, goaltender Jordan Binnington, forward Jaden Schwartz — who he called "Jason" — and play-off MVP Ryan O'Reilly.

"Being able to see (the Oval) Office and get a tour of the White House, it doesn't get much better than that," said Schwartz, who acknowledged he might have a new nickname. "This is (something) you'll remember forever."

Trump even mentioned the Blues adopting Laura Branigan's 1982 hit "Gloria" as their victory song, and the U.S. Marine Band played the team into the ceremony with that tune. Young fan Laila Anderson, who was the team's inspiration while she fought a rare auto-immune disease, got her own mention.

"You inspired the Blues all season, and today you continue to inspire all Americans," Trump said. "We all know your story." Stillman, who presented Trump with a No. 45 Blues jersey, called it a "light-hearted, fun kind of celebration." He echoed Steen's sentiments about why the entire team showed up — a departure from when goaltender Braden Holtby

and forward Brett Connolly skipped the 2018 champion Washington Capitals' visit in March in support of teammate Devante Smith-Pelly.

"I think this team acts as a team in everything they do," Stillman said. "They stick together. By and large, (I) like to keep politics and sports separate. This is a matter of a traditional honor, being invited to the White House by the presidency. It's something you do. I'm really proud of our group for all coming together and having a good time of it, as well."

NHL Commissioner Gary Bettman; Pence's wife, Karen; and Republican Sens. Roy Blunt and Josh Hawley of Missouri were among those in attendance for the



President Donald Trump is presented a team jersey by St. Louis Blues owner Tom Stillman during an event to honor the 2019 Stanley Cup Champion St. Louis Blues, in the Rose Garden of the White House, Tuesday, Oct. 15, 2019, in Washington.

half-hour ceremony.

Coach Craig Berube stressed the notion of the Blues' playoff run as a team effort and brushed off Trump's comment that the pressure was off after winning.

"We won the Stanley Cup, I think, once we got our team working together and playing together," Berube said. "When you play as a team, day in and day out — hard — you're going to be hard to beat. □"

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# Strasburg Ks 12, Nats top Cards 8-1; 1 win from World Series

By **HOWARD FENDRICH**  
AP Sports Writer

**WASHINGTON (AP)** — More than 100 pitches in, Stephen Strasburg was adamant he wasn't quite ready to leave the latest superb start by a Nationals pitcher against the St. Louis Cardinals in the NL Championship Series — a win that put Washington on the verge of the city's first World Series in 86 years.

It was the seventh inning, and manager Dave Martinez noticed Strasburg had flexed his right leg and reached for that hamstring. So the skipper and a trainer went to the mound to check on their guy.

"I was trying to explain to him, 'Hey, you just grabbed your hamstring, so there's a little concern,'" Martinez recalled. "He said, 'No, I cramped up. It's fine. I always cramp up.' He said, 'I'm staying in the game. I want to finish this inning.' I said, 'You sure you're all right?' He said, 'I'm in the game!'"

The right-hander did, indeed, stay in. Even struck out the next two batters to raise his total to 12 Ks, each finished with an off-speed pitch. Strasburg took his turn silencing the Cardinals' struggling bats, Nationals postseason star Howie Kendrick doubled three times and drove in three more runs, and Washington took a 3-0 lead in the best-of-seven NLCS by beating St. Louis 8-1 Monday night.

"It's a little surreal," reliever Sean Doolittle said about being one win from the World Series, "and I think that's why it's important that we don't look too far ahead."

After Nationals starters Anibal Sánchez and Max Scherzer flirted with no-hitters in the first two games against the Cardinals, Strasburg wasn't quite that untouchable: He allowed a double in the second inning, six later singles and one unearned run.

Still, the Cardinals, quite simply, can't score in this NLCS: They have a grand total of two runs and 11 hits through three games. Washington's three starters



Washington Nationals' Victor Robles hits a home run during the sixth inning of Game 3 of the baseball National League Championship Series against the St. Louis Cardinals Monday, Oct. 14, 2019, in Washington.

have a combined ERA — no calculator necessary for this one — of 0.00.

Yes, that's zero-point-zero-zero.

"We expected better," said Kolten Wong, who went 0 for 4 on Monday and is 0 for 10 in the series for St. Louis. Now it's Patrick Corbin's chance to see if he can match his rotation-mates. The \$140 million lefty will start for the Nationals in Game 4 on Tuesday night, when they can close out a sweep at home. Rookie right-hander Dakota Hudson will be on the mound for the Cardinals.

"We've got to get a lead at some point in this series. Hard to win a game if you can't get a lead," St. Louis manager Mike Shildt said. "We've got to figure out a way to create some offense early in the game and be able to hold it there."

Washington hasn't put a baseball team in the World Series since 1933, when the Senators lost to the New

York Giants in five games. The nation's capital owns only one MLB championship; the Senators won all the way back in 1924. There wasn't even a baseball team at all in Washington for more than three decades until the Montreal Expos franchise moved to town before the 2005 season and was renamed the Nationals.

Until this season, the Nationals hadn't won a playoff series, going 0-4 since 2012, but they sure look as if they're making up for lost time.

"Shoot, maybe we're finally coming around," third baseman Anthony Rendon said.

How about this current run? The Nationals, who found themselves at 19-31 in late May, have won 15 of their past 17 games, stretching back to the last week of the regular season.

It all starts with the pitching. "That's what our team is built around. You have

those guys, those horses, that take the ball every fifth day," said Ryan Zimmerman, who drove in two runs. "They haven't disappointed, obviously, in the postseason, but they've kind of been the backbone of this team all year."

Against Sánchez in Game 1, the first hit for the Cardinals arrived with their 27th batter. Against Scherzer in Game 2, it was their 21st batter. But even when the Cardinals did something right against Strasburg, they erased it by doing something wrong.

Their fourth batter, Marcell Ozuna, doubled to the left field corner in the second, then quickly erased himself with some poor baserunning, going too far toward third on a comebacker and getting tagged out by Strasburg, who is enjoying a postseason to remember.

He was the No. 1 overall pick in the 2009 amateur draft, then was famously shut down before the play-

offs three years later to protect his surgically repaired right elbow. Strasburg is now hale and hearty, throwing 117 pitches Monday, his most since totaling 118 in a May 2017 game.

And this sort of October excellence is what the Nationals were hoping for: Strasburg has a 3-0 record and 1.64 ERA, with 33 strikeouts and one walk — he didn't issue a free pass Monday — in 22 innings this postseason.

Much to the delight of a red towel-twirling crowd of 43,675, Washington's batters kept delivering, led by Kendrick, who has eight RBIs in the past four games. The Nationals roughed up Jack Flaherty for four runs, all in the third inning; he hadn't allowed that many in a game since July 2, a span of 18 appearances.

Seven of Washington's eight runs came with two outs, and there were contributions from up and down the lineup: Victor Robles homered in his return from a hamstring injury, and Rendon heard "MVP!" chants after a slick defensive play and an RBI double.

"We haven't been able to play our brand of baseball in full," Shildt said. "We haven't been able to get in rhythm or sync, but we still have more baseball to play."

## TRAINER'S ROOM

Nationals: Robles, the Nationals' center fielder, missed five postseason games with a strained right hamstring he hurt in Game 2 of the NLDS.

## UP NEXT

Corbin took the loss in each of Washington's two defeats this postseason. One was a start — in Game 1 of the NLDS, when he allowed just one unearned run with nine strikeouts — and one came in relief. Corbin also came out of the bullpen to retire one Cardinals batter in Game 2 of the NLCS on Saturday. In his only postseason start, in Game 4 of the Cardinals' NLDS against Atlanta, Hudson allowed one earned run in 4 2/3 innings and did not factor in the decision as St. Louis won 5-4 in 10 innings. □





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# Packers get the calls, Crosby hits late FG to beat Lions

By KEITH JENKINS

**GREEN BAY, Wis. (AP)** — It took Mason Crosby 13 seasons to perform his first Lambeau Leap.

The 35-year-old kicker nailed a 23-yard field goal as time expired and jumped into the crowd with a boost from long snapper Hunter Bradley after he finished off a rally for the Green Bay Packers, who benefited from some questionable officiating to edge the Detroit Lions 23-22 on Monday night.

"That was fun, yeah," Crosby said of leaping into the crowd. "That feeling, once you get up in the stands, the energy in there and teammates and everyone's around, that's something I'll always remember. That was great."

Aaron Rodgers, in his second straight game without top target Davante Adams, completed 24 of 39 passes for 283 yards and two touchdowns, including a beautiful 35-yard throw to Allen Lazard for the second-year pro's first career score.

"I actually sit next to him in the team meetings," Rodgers said of Lazard, who was cut by the Packers in August and then signed to the practice squad to start the season. "We've struck up a pretty good friendship."

"The thing that got me was, which you love as a quarterback, and that's when your receiver's coming back and telling you he wants the ball and what route he wants to run. ... That was him coming back in the huddle, telling me what play he wanted, and for a young guy to do that, how can you not have confidence in that?"

Rodgers linked up with Jamaal Williams for the other TD. Williams finished with



Green Bay Packers running back Aaron Jones (33) fumbles the ball during the first half of an NFL football game against the Detroit Lions, Monday, Oct. 14, 2019, in Green Bay, Wis.

Associated Press

104 yards on 14 carries and four catches for 32 yards for Green Bay (5-1), which captured its first win in five tries against its NFC North rival.

The Packers, who are off to their first 3-0 start in the NFC North since 2012, might not have pulled it off if not for two fourth-quarter penalties for illegal hands to the face against Detroit's Trey Flowers, both of them on third down. The first set up Lazard's touchdown, and the second allowed Green Bay to run the clock down to 2 seconds before Crosby's game-winner. In both cases, replays showed Flowers' hands on the neck or shoulder — not the face — of a Packers lineman.

"I actually changed the position of my hand, because it was to the chest initially," Flowers said. "I was doing it all game. I didn't know that was a flag to the chest, so I changed it. And he called it again."

"I didn't think hands to

the chest was a penalty. I thought hands to the face, but I had him right here in the chest. The second time I changed it. ... That's part of a move that I do. So, nah, I don't think that was a penalty."

Referee Clete Blakeman said each of the calls was made by umpire Jeff Rice, and he discussed the last one with him.

"Basically, it's for illegal use of the hands, hands-to-the-face foul," Blakeman told a pool reporter. "To be a foul, we basically need some forceful contact that's prolonged to the head and neck area of the defender. "So, in his mind he had pinned him back, it was

prolonged, and that's what created the foul."

Matt Prater was good from 26, 22, 41, 51 and 54 yards for the Lions (2-2-1), who fell to 0-2 under Matt Patricia on Monday night. Detroit lost its last Monday night game to the Jets 48-17 last year.

"We got to find a way to finish," said Kenny Golladay, who had 121 yards on five catches for Detroit. "That's a big part of it right now. Find a way to finish. We left a lot of points out there. We were in the red zone quite a bit and just coming out with field goals. That's tough, especially when you've got a guy, a quarterback on the other side that you, you've

got to finish."

Matthew Stafford finished 18 of 32 for 265 yards and was sacked three times.

Kerryon Johnson scored the lone touchdown for the Lions from 1 yard out in the first quarter.

Preston Smith and Za'Darius Smith each had a sack for Green Bay. Preston Smith and Kyler Fackrell combined for the other.

Rodgers was sacked once by Damon Harrison Sr. and threw an interception that bounced off the facemask of an open Derrius Shepherd near the goal line. James Coleman snagged the ball returned it 55 yards, setting up Prater's last field goal that made it 22-13.

**3,000 YARDS AND RUNNING** Rodgers surpassed 3,000 career rushing yards on a 12-yard run in the fourth quarter. He's the 13th Packers player to reach the milestone.

#### INJURIES

Packers: WR Marquez Valdes-Scantling had his right leg bend under him on a tackle in the second quarter. He was able to walk off under his own power. WR Geronimo Allison was carted off the field following a helmet-to-helmet hit by Tracy Walker on the first play of the third quarter. He did not return. Allison was being evaluated for a chest injury and a concussion.

#### UP NEXT

Lions: Host the Minnesota Vikings on Oct. 20.

Packers: Host the Oakland Raiders on Oct. 20. □





# Isles rally past Blues in OT; Bruins' Pastrnak scores 4

**By The Associated Press**  
**UNIONDALE, N.Y. (AP)** — Devon Toews scored at 1:13 of overtime to complete a stunning late-game comeback by the New York Islanders as they downed the St. Louis Blues 3-2 on Monday.

The Blues seemed to have the game well in hand in the closing minutes before Brock Nelson put the home team on the board with his third goal of the season at 14:29 of the third. Mathew Barzal then tied the game at 19:33 off a scramble in front with Islanders goalie Thomas Greiss pulled for an extra attacker.

That set the stage for Toews' goal. Barzal and Nelson had the assists. That sent what had been a mostly silent crowd at Nassau Coliseum into a frenzy as the defending champion Blues skated off toward their locker room. Griess made 21 saves for the win.

Goals from Brayden Schenn and Vladimir Tarasenko had given the Blues at 2-0 lead.

## **BRUINS 4, DUCKS 2**

**BOSTON (AP)** — David Pastrnak scored a career-high four goals for his fifth career hat trick, leading Boston over Anaheim.

Jaroslav Halak stopped 30 shots and Brad Marchand added two assists for the Bruins, the Stanley Cup runner-up off to a 5-1 start.

Rickard Rakell and Adam Henrique scored for the Ducks, and John Gibson made 19 saves. Anaheim has lost two of three after winning its first three games this season.

Pastrnak completed his hat trick with an unassisted goal off a faceoff. He stole the puck from defenseman Josh Mason and slipped a wrist shot between John Gibson's pads 2:20 into the third period to make it 3-1, prompting fans to throw



Boston Bruins right wing David Pastrnak (88) scores a goal against Anaheim Ducks goaltender John Gibson (36) as Ducks defenseman Hampus Lindholm (47) tries to defend in the third period of an NHL hockey game, Monday, Oct. 14, 2019, in Boston.

Associated Press

hats on the ice.

The 23-year-old forward scored 2:14 later off a nice feed from Marchand.

## **PANTHERS 6, DEVILS 4**

**NEWARK, N.J. (AP)** — Mackenzie Weegar scored the tying goal and set up Noel Acciari for the go-ahead tally and Florida rallied from a three-goal deficit to beat winless New Jersey.

Brett Connolly scored twice, Jonathan Huberdeau and Evgenii Dandonov also had goals as the Panthers snapped a three-game losing streak. Sergei Bobrovsky stopped 17 shots as he improved his career mark against the Devils to 17-5-1.

Pavel Zacha, Taylor Hall, Jesper Bratt and Will Butcher scored for the Devils, who fell to 0-4-2. Cory Schneider made 28 saves.

It is the Devils' worst start to a season since beginning 2013-14 with seven straight

losses (0-4-3).

## **WILD 2, SENATORS 0**

**OTTAWA, Ontario (AP)** — Alex Stalock stopped all 26 shots he faced and Minnesota picked up its first win of the season.

Victor Rask and Zach Parise scored third-period goals for the Wild (1-4-0).

Stalock, in his first start of the season, earned his sixth career shutout.

Craig Anderson stopped 33 shots for the Senators (1-4-0), who wrapped up a four-game homestand with a 1-3-0 record.

After two scoreless periods, the Wild opened the scoring midway through the third.

Rask had a great takeaway on Jean-Gabriel Pageau and then beat Anderson short-side.

Parise added an empty-net goal to seal the win.

## **SABRES 4, STARS 0**

**BUFFALO, N.Y. (AP)** — Rook-

ie forward Victor Olofsson set an NHL record by becoming the first player to score his first seven career goals on the power play, Carter Hutton made 25 saves to earn his first shutout of the season, and Buffalo kept up its strong start. Sam Reinhart, Jeff Skinner and Marcus Johansson had the other goals and Jack Eichel recorded two assists for the Sabres. Olofsson also had an assist.

Buffalo has earned a point in its first six games (5-0-1) for the first time since going 6-0-2 through its first eight games of the 2008-09 season. The Sabres' 4-0 start at home is their best since 2006-07.

Dallas opened a four-game road trip with a third straight loss.

Ben Bishop stopped 18 shots for the Stars. Bishop entered the game with a 12-0-1 record and consecutive shutouts against the Sabres.

Olofsson set his record on a one-timer off Rasmus Dahlin's pass from the right circle to open the scoring 6:27 into the second period. A delay of game penalty on the Stars' bench put the Sabres on the power play.

## **AVALANCHE 6, CAPITALS 3**

**WASHINGTON (AP)** — Nazem Kadri and Mikko Rantanen each had a goal and two assists to help the Colorado improve to 5-0-0. Erik Johnson, Nikita Zadorov and Matt Nieto also scored for Colorado. Nathan MacKinnon added an empty-net goal and had an assist for the Avalanche, who scored on their first three shots of the game.

Philipp Grubauer stopped 29 shots against his former team to pick up the win, and Andre Burakovsky picked up an assist in his return to Washington as a visiting player.

Colorado's start is tied for the second-longest without a loss since the team moved to Colorado and tied for their fourth-longest in franchise history.

Alex Ovechkin, Lars Eller and T.J. Oshie scored for Washington and Evgeny Kuznetsov had two assists.

Braden Holtby gave up the three early goals on three shots and was pulled after Kadri's goal 7:54 into the game for the earliest removal of his career. Rookie Ilya Samsonov came on and finished with 19 saves on 21 shots.

## **BLACKHAWKS 3, OILERS 1**

**CHICAGO (AP)** — Patrick Kane and Alexander Nylander scored, Corey Crawford stopped 27 shots, and Chicago got its first win of the season.

Brandon Saad added an empty-netter with 32.7 seconds left to seal the win for Chicago, which went 0-2-1 in its first three games. Crawford lost a bid for his 26th career shutout when James Neal scored his NHL-leading eighth goal on a power-play with 2:11 remaining.

Mike Smith finished with 32 saves for Edmonton, which had opened the season with five wins.

Crawford came through with big saves, thwarted Edmonton's Connor McDavid and Leon Draisaitl — who entered as the NHL's top two scorers — on several prime chances. McDavid, who has 12 points, was kept off the scoresheet for the first time this season. □





# LeBron James no longer King James for Hong Kong protesters

**HONG KONG (AP)** — When the ball smashed into a photo of LeBron James' face stuck above the hoop and dropped into the basket, the Hong Kong protesters cheered.

They also trampled on jerseys bearing his name and gathered in a semicircle to watch one burn.

James' standing among basketball fans in Hong Kong took a hit because of comments the NBA star made about free speech. Fans gathered on courts amid Hong Kong's high-rise buildings Tuesday to vent their anger.

The player for the Los Angeles Lakers touched a nerve among protesters for suggesting that free speech can have negative consequences. They have been protesting for months in defense of the same freedom that James said can carry "a lot of negative."

The protesters chanted support for Houston Rockets general manager Daryl Morey, something of a hero among demonstrators

in the semi-autonomous Chinese territory for having tweeted on Oct. 4 in support of their struggle, infuriating authorities in China. What the crowd of approximately 200 people chanted about James wasn't printable.

"People are angry," said James Lo, a web designer who runs a Hong Kong basketball fan page on Facebook. He said he's already received a video from a protester that showed him burning a No. 23 jersey bearing James' name.

He expects more, given the backlash from protesters who've been regularly hitting the streets of Hong Kong and battling police because of concerns that the international business hub is slowly losing its freedoms, which are unique in China.

"Students, they come out like every weekend. They've got tear gassed and then they got gunshot, like every weekend. Police beating students and then innocent people,



**Demonstrators stamp on Lebron James jerseys during a rally at the Southern Playground in Hong Kong, Tuesday, Oct. 15, 2019.**

Associated Press

like every day. And then he (James) just comes up with something (like) that. We just can't accept that." James made his comments in response to a question about whether Morey should be punished for his tweet that reverberated in China and had conse-

quences for the NBA. "Yes, we do have freedom of speech," James said. "But at times, there are ramifications for the negative that can happen when you're not thinking about others, when you only think about yourself."

He added: "So many

people could have been harmed, not only financially but physically, emotionally, spiritually. So just be careful what we tweet and what we say and what we do. Even though yes, we do have freedom of speech, it can be a lot of negative that comes with it." □

## Continued from Page 18

It explains why Griffin, not long after he rolled in a 6-foot par putt with eerie calm to win on the PGA Tour, fought back tears when asked how he got to this point.

His family always opened one gift on Christmas Eve, and Griffin was 8 when he got a putter. The next morning, he got the rest of his starter set — a 5-iron, 7-iron, 9-iron and a 3-wood. No one in his family played golf. Until then, his only experience was whacking balls in a field with a persimmons club his father had bought from a barrel of clubs that sold for \$1 each. A mile from their home in Blacksburg, Virginia, was a nine-hole course called "The Hill" where he could spend all day for \$9. And then one day, Griffin was invited to Blacksburg Country Club, where he noticed Prater, the head pro, conducting a clinic for a small group of kids.

Prater took it from there.

"I wouldn't be here without him," Griffin said. "He

opened every door in golf that I ever had — teaching me for free, giving me a membership. He's had my back my entire journey."

Prater, who now works at Roanoke Country Club, remembers a young boy who asked if he could come to the clinic. He didn't know much about the family's financial situation except it was clear Griffin could use the help and that he had a passion for the game.

When Griffin's father died of a brain tumor, Prater called the house that day and offered the 12-year-old boy a free membership to Blacksburg Country Club. Prater's son is five years younger, and he and Griffin became friends.

"He stayed at my house quite a bit because he could walk to the course," Prater said. "I took him on as another son. He was sad, and I think him coming down and staying with me some and getting away from things that reminded him of his father ... he pulled from playing golf. That was his way of getting away."

Griffin says he would leave the house at 7 a.m. and stay at the course until 7 p.m.

"That's what made me fall in love with the game at a young age," Griffin said. "If Steve didn't bring me in at that real vulnerable part of my life, then there's no chance that I would be playing golf in college — or winning the Houston Open."

Griffin shot 51 for nine holes in his first junior event at the club. By the time he finished high school, he was good enough to play four years at Virginia Commonwealth and told Prater he wanted to try playing for a living.

Just like everything else in life, nothing came easily. Griffin made \$975 in his first mini-tour event, minus the \$950 entry fee. He picked up experience, along with plenty of debt. He thought about quitting more than once, and he might have done that if not for Will Wilcox — whom he met at that first mini-tour event — asking Griffin to caddy for him at The Greenbrier in 2014.



**Lanto Griffin kisses the championship trophy during presentation ceremonies after winning the Houston Open golf tournament Sunday, Oct. 13, 2019, in Houston.**

Associated Press

Wilcox tied for fourth. Griffin made \$17,000, at the time his largest check in golf. Prater, who gleaned everything he could about instruction during stints at Sailfish Point and Jupiter Island Club in Florida, kept teaching through phone calls and texts and whenever he could get out to a tournament. He also knew Griffin needed more than he could offer.

"I mostly teach juniors and members. I build golf

swings," Prater said. "When he was in Latin America, he was starting to spin his wheels. He needed some confidence. He needed other opinions."

Prater hooked him up with noted instructor Todd Anderson because they have similar philosophies, and Griffin became more polished. He still leans on Prater for the short game, and they keep in touch through texts, phone calls and the occasional video. □





**By: Carlos M Viana, CCN, OMD**

After greeting our patient, the first question I ask is: "How did you sleep last night"? Sleep is a basic human need, as important for good health as diet and exercise. Only when we are sound asleep do our bodies repair. When we sleep, our bodies rest but our brains are active, laying the groundwork for healing and productivity. Most people need eight hours of sleep nightly. Unfortunately, for 10% to 25% of us, not being able to get to sleep or insomnia can be a chronic condition. Approximately 98 million dollars a year is spent in the United States alone on over-the-counter sleep aids. Not getting enough restful sleep results in daytime sleepiness, increased accidents, problems concentrating and poor performance on the job and in school, and increased sickness and weight gain.

Lack of sleep seems to be a major stress factor. Regularly catching only a few hours of sleep can hinder metabolism and hormone production in a way that is similar to the effects of aging and the early stages of diabetes. Chronic

## Health and Beauty Sleep

sleep loss may speed the onset or increase the severity of conditions such as type II diabetes, high blood pressure, obesity, and memory loss. Medical researchers have shown that just one week of sleep deprivation altered subject's hormone levels and their capacity to metabolize carbohydrates. Research has shown that in developed countries, the average night's sleep has grown shorter since the beginning of the century, from 9 hours to 7.5 hours. People who give up sleep to make more time for work and leisure are aging much faster than they should be.

During sleep-deprivation, researchers found, men's blood sugar levels took 40% longer to drop, compared with the natural sleep-recovery period; and their ability to secrete and respond to the hormone insulin, which helps regulate blood sugar, dropped by 30%. These changes reflect the effects of insulin resistance. In addition, the sleep-deprived men had higher nighttime concentrations of the hormone cortisol, which also helps regulate blood sugar, and lower levels of thyroid-stimulating hormone. These raised cortisol levels are often seen in older people, and may be involved in age-related insulin resistance and memory loss.

Many childhood sleep problems are related to irregular sleep habits or to anxiety. Persistent sleep problems may also be symptoms of emotional difficulties. "Separation anxiety" is a developmental landmark for young children. Bedtime is a time of separation. Some children will do all they can to prevent separation at bedtime.

The average woman aged 30-60 sleeps only six hours and forty-one minutes during the work-week. Conditions unique to women, like the menstrual cycle, pregnancy and menopause, can affect how well a woman sleeps. This is because the changing levels of hormones that a woman experiences throughout the month, like estrogen and progesterone, have an impact on sleep. Understanding the effects of these hormones, environmental factors and lifestyle habits can help women enjoy a good night's sleep.

Having trouble getting to sleep? The following ten suggestions might help. 1) Maintain a

regular bed and wake time schedule including weekends. 2) Establish a regular, relaxing bedtime routine such as soaking in a hot bath and then reading a book or listening to soothing music. 3) Create a sleep-conducive environment that is dark, quiet, comfortable and cool. 4) Sleep on a comfortable mattress and pillows. 5) Use your bedroom only for sleep and sex. It is best to take work materials, computers and televisions out of the sleeping environment. 6) Eat a healthy diet and finish eating at least 2-3 hours before your regular bedtime. 7) Exercise regularly. It is best to complete your workout at least a few hours before bedtime. 8) Avoid caffeine (e.g. coffee, tea, and soft drinks, or chocolate) close to bedtime. It can keep you awake. 9) Avoid nicotine (e.g. cigarettes, tobacco products) Used close to bedtime, it can lead to poor sleep. 10) Avoid alcohol close to bedtime. It can lead to disrupted sleep later in the night. 11) Do not run electrical wires under or over your bed.

Pharmaceutical drugs to get to sleep are not a healthy solution. These drugs do not produce the deep curative sleep needed to regain our health and are habit-forming. There are natural food supplements like 5-HTP and Theanine (from Green Tea) can help considerably if taken with a little natural fruit juice thirty minutes or more before you eat. If your sleep cycle has changed because of travel or work shift change the natural supplement melatonin will help reset your sleep cycle. Acupuncture helps balance your body and encourages restful sleep. A visit to a natural physician could help you determine the cause of your sleep problem and how to best help it. Remember, you cannot restore your health without sound sleep.

Get the Point! Getting the right amount of sleep is vital, but just as important is the quality of your sleep. An adequate amount of sleep is as important as an adequate amount of exercise. Most of us do not fully appreciate the value of a full night's sleep. I believe that seven hours is an absolute minimum for most all of us, and most of us would benefit from closer to 9 hours. Ask any woman how much better she feels and looks when getting her full allotment of beauty sleep. □

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# Stocks march higher following solid earnings reports

By ALEX VEIGA  
DAMIAN J. TROISE

Technology and health care companies powered U.S. stocks solidly higher Tuesday afternoon as investors welcomed surprisingly good quarterly results from some of the nation's biggest companies.

Solid earnings from UnitedHealth Group, JPMorgan Chase and other companies helped lift the market, erasing modest losses from a day earlier. Investors are looking to the wave of quarterly report cards due out over the next few weeks to give them a clearer picture of what impact the trade war between the U.S. and China is having on corporate profits and the broader economy.

Health insurers were among the biggest gainers in the S&P 500 after UnitedHealth Group raised its annual financial forecast following third-quarter results that beat Wall Street's expectations.

Chipmaker Nvidia led technology sector stocks higher, climbing 6.3%.

Solid financial results from JPMorgan Chase and Charles Schwab helped drive gains in financial stocks.

Bond prices fell. The yield on the 10-year Treasury rose to 1.77% from 1.75% late Friday. Bond markets were closed Monday for Columbus Day.

Utilities, real estate companies and makers of consumer goods all fell as investors regained an appetite for more risk. The sectors are considered safe-play holdings and usually lag the market when investors are more confident.

Tuesday marks the beginning of a busy few days for



In this Oct. 8, 2019, file photo trader Mark Puetzer, center, works on the floor of the New York Stock Exchange.

Associated Press

corporate earnings. United Airlines Holdings will report later in the day and give investors an early glimpse into the health of the airline industry.

Banks continue their earnings reports on Wednesday with Bank of America and PNC Financial. Railroad giant CSX, Netflix and IBM will also report results on Wednesday.

**KEEPING SCORE:** The S&P 500 index was up 1.1% as of 1:28 p.m. Eastern time. The Dow Jones Industrial Average rose 261 points, or 1%, to 27,048. The Nasdaq gained 1.3%. Small-company stocks were faring better than the rest of the market after leading the decline a day earlier. The Russell 2000 index was up 1.5%.

**ANALYST'S TAKE:** Early earnings reports are giving investors a strong shot of confidence and, for now at least, overriding concerns about whether Washington

and Beijing will be able to work out a trade deal.

Washington and Beijing agreed to a truce Friday. The U.S. agreed to suspend a planned hike in tariffs on \$250 billion of Chinese goods that had been set to kick in Tuesday. Beijing, meanwhile, agreed to buy \$40 billion to \$50 billion in U.S. farm products.

The U.S. did not, however, cancel plans for more tariffs in December and the sticking points of intellectual property and trade secrets still hang over the dispute.

"There really isn't any pen to paper, it's just people talking and nothing definite," said JJ Kinahan, chief market strategist for TD Ameritrade. "The earnings are

definite."

More importantly, the latest batch of earnings came with a spate of surprisingly good forecasts for the rest of the year, which is helping to ease concerns about a trade war-induced slowdown.

"That was what everybody was afraid of," Kinahan said. "Instead, we got 'no, the future looks good.'"

**EARNINGS WORRIES:** The early batch of upbeat financial reports come amid broader concerns for another rough round of quarterly earnings reports as a wide range of industries absorb the impact of ongoing trade disputes and growing economic uncertainty. Corporate earnings

are expected to contract by nearly 5% during the third quarter, according to FactSet.

The dire prediction could soften as more companies report earnings. Similar forecasts were made ahead of both the first and second quarter reporting periods and companies in the S&P 500 managed to deliver only a modest contraction each time.

**HEALTHY FORECASTS:** UnitedHealth Group rose 7.6% after it hiked its 2019 profit forecast. The nation's largest health insurance company said the addition of hundreds of clinics to its health care services business helped drive revenue and profit during the third quarter, both of which beat Wall Street forecasts.

Other health insurers were trading higher: Anthem gained 6.7%, Cigna added 5.9% and Humana rose 4.6%.

Johnson & Johnson, the world's biggest maker of health care products, gained 2% after it also raised its profit forecast for the year following solid third quarter results. The company cited higher sales of key medicines for cancer and immune disorders.

**BANKS AT BAT:** JPMorgan Chase rose 3.9% after the bank beat Wall Street's third quarter profit forecasts on growth from higher interest rates and solid performance from its investment banking business. □

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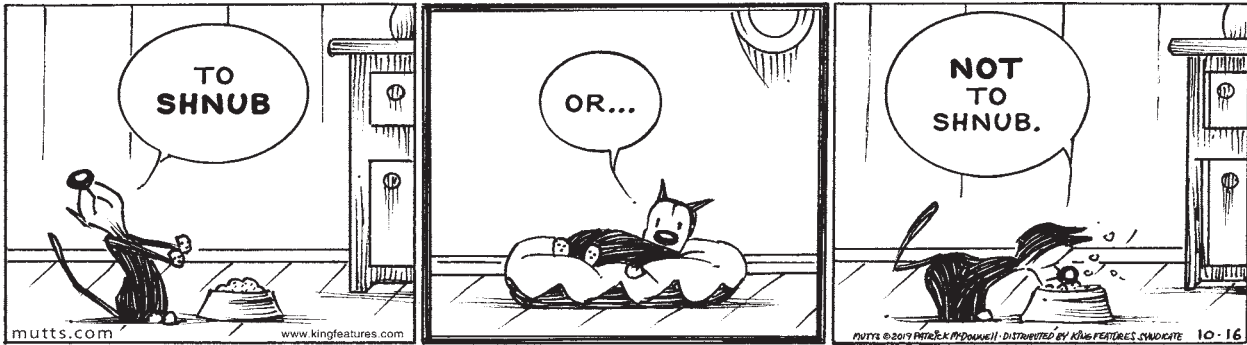
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## 6 Chix



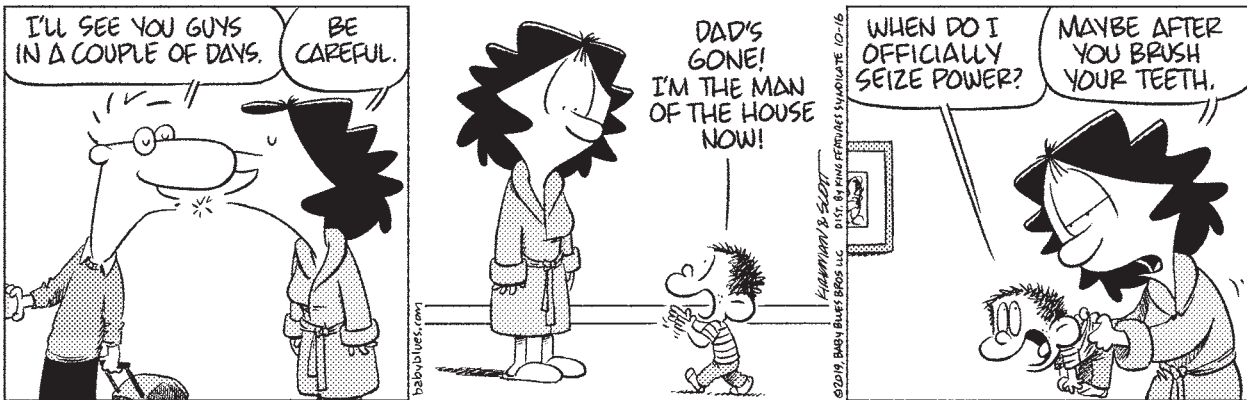
## Blondie



## Mother Goose & Grimm



## Baby Blues



## Zits



## Conceptis Sudoku

		1	6	2				
	8				5			
3		9				7		
4		6				1		
5			1			2		
	7				4	9		
		7	4	6	3	5	9	
						3	4	2
							7	1

Difficulty Level ★★★

10/16

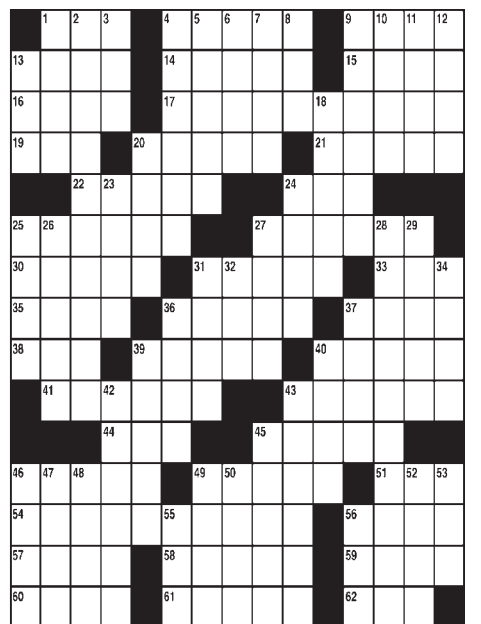
Sudoku is a number-placing puzzle based on a 9x9 grid with several given numbers. The object is to place the numbers 1 to 9 in the empty squares so that each row, each column and each 3x3 box contains the same number only once. The difficulty level of the Conceptis Sudoku increases from Monday to Sunday.

Yesterday's puzzle answer

7	1	8	4	5	6	3	2	9
2	9	4	8	3	7	6	1	5
3	5	6	1	9	2	7	8	4
8	2	3	9	1	4	5	6	7
9	6	5	7	2	3	8	4	1
4	7	1	5	6	8	9	3	2
6	8	7	2	4	9	1	5	3
5	3	2	6	7	1	4	9	8
1	4	9	3	8	5	2	7	6

## ACROSS

- "He Ain't Heavy, My Brother"
- Perspiration
- Sign of healing
- Bank teller's call
- Hunt illegally
- Sheltered bay
- Hee-haw
- Heartbeat irregularity
- "The Goldbergs" network
- enough; ironically
- Tall marsh grasses
- Santa's helpers
- Ho-; boring
- Main characters in novels
- Rejuvenates
- Not rural
- Outer garment
- humble pie; apologize
- Tiny weight
- Winner
- Insulting remark
- in one's ways; inflexible
- A+ or C-, for example
- Country estate
- Wheeler-; shrewd operator
- Powerful
- Piglet's ma
- Children's author A.A. \_\_\_\_
- Cowboy's rope
- Happy expression
- Encycl. volume, perhaps
- Light up
- Run away
- Close angrily
- Striped animal
- Virginia \_\_\_\_; lively dance
- A personality; dynamo
- up; agitates
- Linear measures: abbr.



Created by Jacqueline E. Mathews

10/16/19

## Tuesday's Puzzle Solved

GNUS	PALMS	STOP
RINK	ALIBI	VIVA
INDY	LOSANGELES	
MAE	CANT	ALERT
ROUTE	HUT	
NATURE	SANEST	
ELATE	PLAIT	PAL
WOKS	FRAIL	ZETA
SHE	CROWD	RACED
ARCHES	WINTRY	
LAD	LIBYA	
ABHOR	BENS	CDE
BEAUTICIAN	FLEA	
LAND	LOOSE	READ
EDDY	LOSER	ODDS

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10/16/19

## DOWN

- Sage or thyme
- Make worse

- Darkness; sadness
- Contemptible
- Take for granted
- Some racers
- Bishops' headdress
- Shopper's paper
- Friendly nation
- in the face; insult
- In a \_\_\_\_; miffed
- Epiphany visitors
- Charges
- Vaseline, for one
- "Now or Never"
- Cook in oil



# Alaska Zoo's ailing polar bear dies; Lyutyik was 19

**ANCHORAGE, Alaska (AP)** — A polar bear at the Alaska Zoo has died. Officials announced on the zoo website Monday that 19-year-old Lyutyik (LOO-tee-ik) died Sunday. The beloved animal was generally referred to as Lyu (LOO) or Louie. He was part of the zoo since 2006. Zoo officials last week said the bear two months ago had become lethargic and was refusing to eat. Caretakers removed him from his usual habitat for monitoring. After the bear died, an evaluation found a mass around and in one of his kidneys. Zoo officials say the condition often goes undetected in animals that large. A more comprehensive pathology review is planned. Polar Bears International says some polar bears in captivity have lived to their mid- to late 30s. □

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# Owl killings spur moral questions about human intervention

By PHUONG LE

Associated Press

**CORVALLIS, Ore. (AP)** — As he stood amid the thick old-growth forests in the coastal range of Oregon, Dave Wiens was nervous. Before he trained to shoot his first barred owl, he had never fired a gun. He eyed the big female owl, her feathers streaked brown and white, perched on a branch at just the right distance. Then he squeezed the trigger and the owl fell to the forest floor, adding to a running tally of more than 2,400 barred owls killed so far in a controversial experiment by the U.S. government to test whether the northern spotted owl's rapid decline in the Pacific Northwest can be stopped by killing its aggressive East Coast cousin.

Wiens grew up fascinated by birds, and his graduate research in owl interactions helped lay the groundwork for this tense moment.

"It's a little distasteful, I think, to go out killing owls to save another owl species," said Wiens, a biologist who still views each shooting as "gut-wrenching" as the first. "Nonetheless, I also feel like from a conservation standpoint, our back was up against the wall. We knew that barred owls were out-competing spotted owls and their populations were going haywire."

The federal government has been trying for decades to save the northern spotted owl, a native bird that sparked an intense battle over logging across Washington, Oregon and California decades ago. After the owl was listed as threatened under the Endangered Species Act in 1990, earning it a cover on Time Magazine, federal of-



This combination of 2003 and 2006 photos shows a northern spotted owl, left, in the Deschutes National Forest near Camp Sherman, Ore., and a barred owl in East Burke, Vt.

Associated Press

ficials halted logging on millions of acres of old-growth forests on federal lands to protect the bird's habitat. But the birds' population continued to decline.

Meanwhile, researchers, including Wiens, began documenting another threat — larger, more aggressive barred owls competing with spotted owls for food and space and displacing them in some areas.

In almost all ways, the barred owl is the spotted owl's worst enemy: They reproduce more often, have more babies per year and eat the same prey, like squirrels and wood rats. And they now outnumber spotted owls in many areas of the native bird's historic range.

The U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service's experiment, which began in 2015, has raised thorny questions: To what

extent can we reverse declines that have unfolded over decades, often partially due to actions by humans? And as climate change continues to shake up the landscape, how should we intervene?

The experimental killing of barred owls raised such moral dilemmas when it first was proposed in 2012 that the Fish and Wildlife Service took the unusual step of hiring an ethicist to help work through whether it was acceptable and could be done humanely. The owl experiment is unusual because it involves killing one species of owl to save another owl species. But federal and state officials already have intervened with other species. They have broken the necks of thousands of cowbirds to save the warbler, a songbird once on the brink of extinction. To preserve salmon runs in the Pacific Northwest and perch and other fish in the Midwest, agencies kill thousands of large seabirds called double-crested cormorants. And last year, Congress passed a law making it easier for Oregon, Washington, Idaho and American Indian tribes to kill sea lions that

gobble imperiled salmon runs in the Columbia River. In four small study areas in Washington, Oregon and northern California, Wiens and his trained team have been picking off invasive barred owls with 12-gauge shotguns to see whether the native birds return to their nesting habitat once their competitors are gone. Small efforts to remove barred owls in British Columbia and northern California already showed promising results.

The Fish and Wildlife Service has a permit to kill up to 3,600 owls and, if the \$5 million program works, could decide to expand its efforts.

Wiens, who works for the U.S. Geological Survey, now views his gun as "a research tool" in humankind's attempts to maintain biodiversity and rebalance the forest ecosystem. Because the barred owl has few predators in Northwest forests, he sees his team's role as apex predator, acting as a cap on a population that doesn't have one.

"Humans, by stepping in and taking that role in nature, we may be able to achieve more biodiversity in the environment, rather

than just having barred owls take over and wipe out all the prey species," he said.

Marc Bekoff, professor emeritus of ecology and evolutionary biology at the University of Colorado, Boulder, finds the practice abhorrent and said humans should find another way to help owl.

"There's no way to couch it as a good thing if you're killing one species to save another," Bekoff said.

And Michael Harris, who directs the wildlife law program for Friends of Animals, thinks the government should focus on what humans are doing to the environment and protect habitats rather than scapegoating barred owls.

"We really have to let these things work themselves out," Harris said. "It's going to be very common with climate change. What are we going to do — pick and choose the winners?"

Some see a responsibility to intervene, however, noting that humans are partly to blame for the underlying conditions with activities like logging, which helped lead to the spotted owl's decline. And others just see a no-win situation.

"A decision not to kill the barred owl is a decision to let the spotted owl go extinct," said Bob Sallinger, conservation director with the Audubon Society of Portland. "That's what we have to wrestle with."

If the experimental removal of barred owls improves the spotted owl populations, the U.S. Fish and Wildlife may consider killing more owls as part of a larger, long-term management strategy. Enough success has been noted that the experiment already has been extended to August 2021.

"I certainly don't see northern spotted owls going extinct completely," Wiens said, adding that "extinction in this case will be much longer process and from what we've seen from doing these removal experiments, we may be able to slow some of those declines." □



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# Fashion's LaQuan Smith embraces that Champagne lifestyle

By LEANNE ITALIE  
Associated Press

**NEW YORK (AP)** — LaQuan Smith is all about the Champagne lifestyle: bubbly, luxurious and, especially when it comes to the women's clothes he creates, sexy. The designer made his New York Fashion Week debut at 21 with a sleek and sassy collection he dubbed "Water Goddess." Ten years later, his rise seems meteoric in fashion years, from sneaking into industry events and handing out wildly colored and textured leggings he sewed in his Jamaica, Queens, basement to outfitting Beyonce, Serena Williams, Jennifer Lopez, Kim Kardashian and Rihanna. At 31, some see the self-trained Smith as a pioneer in pushing the fashion culture forward, but it was far from easy. He told The Associated Press in a recent interview that he owes his success to his singular passion — fashion — and staying true to himself by trusting his gut. "It's just by doing what I love, just doing things that speak and represent me," said Smith, dressed in a killer red-and-blue plaid jacket, turtleneck, ripped black denim jeans and pristine white kicks. "I always like to start with a level of authenticity."

That authenticity was in



This Oct. 10, 2019, photo shows fashion designer LaQuan Smith posing for a portrait in New York. Some see the self-trained Smith as a pioneer in pushing the fashion culture forward.

Associated Press

play Tuesday when Moët & Chandon named Smith one of its "Nectar of the Culture" ambassadors, along with other trailblazers in music, art and more, in celebration of Moët Nectar Imperial Rose. It's the latest in a long line of collaborations as Smith continues to build his namesake brand, sticking close to home to produce his clothes in Queens.

"New York used to be the primary source of garment construction, and that's something that I wish we could sort of go back to,"

Smith said. "Manufacturing in Queens is just something that organically happened."

Some of Smith's lows struck early in life, after his grandmother taught him to sew when he was 13. After putting on a fashion show at his middle school, he was thrilled to attend the High School of Art and Design, only to say goodbye to bustling New York in the 11th grade when his mother moved the family to Delaware, a place that held no allure. It was then that he was diagnosed with

bone cancer, a truly "humbling experience," he said. Smith recovered and continued to pursue his fashion dreams, desperate to return to New York, but he was rejected by both the Fashion Institute of Technology and the Parsons School of Design.

"I was just kind of devastated and at a loss. I didn't really know how to get my head up off the ground," he said.

That's when he was offered an internship at BlackBook, the art and culture magazine, working for then-fash-

ion director Elizabeth Sulcer. She was in demand for industry parties and events, and Smith made use of those contacts, showing up uninvited at times dressed in his own designs. He took to handing out his leggings to whoever would take them. In 2010, the effort paid off when he spotted Lady Gaga in a pair as he flipped through a tabloid while with his mom at a supermarket.

"My mom was, like, yeah that's nice," he said. "I don't think she really got it."

The same year, Smith showed for the first time at fashion week and American Vogue's former editor-at-large, Andre Leon Talley, chatted him up. Also, Rihanna wore his gold chain-mail bodysuit in her "Rude Boy" video and later shouted him out on Instagram for his "money green," barely there net dress she styled over a bikini in Brazil.

"I was 21 years old and I had such an incredible amount of support from industry insiders, and then a couple years after that it sort of was like a crash and burn, where reality started to hit me," Smith said. "I had no business infrastructure, I had no money. It was just popularity. ... It took time for me to be able to focus on, really hone in on, running a solid business." □

# Fantasia won't be boxed in on 'Sketchbook' album

By MELANIE J. SIMS  
Associated Press

Fantasia, "Sketchbook" (Rock Soul/BMG) If you haven't heard Fantasia's latest singles, there's an easy summary: one's spiritual, another's about sex, and both are worth a listen. The singer draws from very different worlds on her latest album "Sketchbook" — crediting a higher power for her heavenly vocals on the upbeat "Holy Ghost," then confessing the pleasure and peril of a good romp in the hay on the seductive T-Pain-assisted "PTSD" (short for "Post-Traumatic Sex Disorder.") Neither areas are foreign territory to Fanta-

sia, whose powerhouse vocals earned her the title of "American Idol" back in 2004. Since then, the R&B world has seen tons of shift, with newcomers who seem more focused on creating "a vibe" and less concerned with (or capable of) the dramatic belting out that Fantasia's known for. And while Fantasia has injected some youthfulness into her production, the Grammy winner is staying true to her artistry on "Sketchbook," her first independent release. She delivers the fullness of her voice on the sexy, guitar-laced "Believer" and the easy-going "Enough"; pours her

honeyed vocals over the island-influenced beat of "Take Off"; and experiments with a rock feel on "Warning." Fantasia's gospel roots remain strong, of course, and fans will be delighted with "Looking for You," which features the singer's mom, Mama Diane.

"Sketchbook" was originally supposed to include a collaboration with fellow R&B stars Brandy and Jazmine Sullivan, though Fantasia explained that it didn't happen because of "politics." The song would have been welcomed, but thankfully Fantasia makes "Sketchbook" a work of art, all her own. □



This cover image released by Rock Soul/BMG shows "Sketchbook," a release by Fantasia.

Associated Press





This image released by Disney shows Angelina Jolie as Maleficent in a scene from "Maleficent: Mistress of Evil."

Associated Press

## In 'Mistress of Evil,' Maleficent plays mom

By **JAKE COYLE**  
Associated Press

For a moment, "Maleficent: Mistress of Evil" seems poised to turn into a wonderful take on "Father of the Bride" only with fangs and wings. Princess Aurora (Elle Fanning), the beauty who escaped the curse of sleep, merrily accepts the proposal of Prince Phillip (Harris Dickinson), a marriage that could unite the fairy and human worlds. Aurora cautiously asks if Maleficent (Angelina Jolie), her now-redeemed fairy godmother, might go with her to meet the parents: Queen Ingrith (Michelle Pfeiffer) and King John (Robert Lindsay). It's so much fun watching Maleficent prepare for the meeting by practicing such basic cordialities as smiling and small talk that it's hard not to wish the movie sees the fearsome sorceress through the entire battery of wedding planning. Maleficent at a bridal shower. Maleficent choosing the table settings. Sadly, such fun is not to be had in "Mistress of Evil," a needless sequel to the 2014 "Sleeping Beauty" riff that fails to fully value the entire of appeal of these films: Jolie's Maleficent. The first movie, a box-office hit, was a mess but its star attraction was the one thing it had going for it. Jolie, an unfortunately infrequent

presence on the screen these days, slid into the role so perfectly, dominating all around her with Norma Desmond command and cheekbones that could slice your throat. The character had its roots in those '50s melodrama stars; Marc Davis, animator of the 1959 Disney film, also sculpted Cruella de Vil. And in teaming Jolie with the equally potent Pfeiffer, whose queen quickly turns into Maleficent's bitter foe, "Mistress of Evil" had the potential of summoning the intoxicating stuff of Joan Crawford and Bette Davis. But the movie, with Joachim Rønning ("Pirates of the Caribbean: Dead Men Tell No Tales") taking over for Robert Stromberg, overcomplicates itself. Instead of aiming for the elemental simplicity of a fairy tale, "Mistress of Evil" fills itself with the politics and detail of the fairy-human struggle, building inevitably to a PG-friendly war between Queen Ingrith's army and the magical spirits of the Moors, spread out across impressively vast computer-generated palace grounds. It's starting to seem like every franchise film, when in search of a story, throws a battle against the wall and hopes something sticks. Not only has this gotten tiresome, but it also sacrifices what we came here

for in the first place: Jolie and Pfeiffer glowering at each other. But all the necessary buildup to the clash (including Chiwetel Ejiofor as among an exiled group of winged creatures called the dark fey) robs us of enough screen time with Jolie's Maleficent. The plot in "Maleficent" drew largely from its inventive redemption of a classic Disney villain. But it didn't really follow through on the possibilities of fairy tale revisionism. It simply offered up another villain (Aurora's father King Stefan), just as "Mistress of Evil" does with its dastardly Queen Ingrith. A better film would have kept playing with inverted archetypes. What saves "Mistress of Evil" from a worse fate, in the end, is Fanning. Aurora, like many of Fanning's performances, is a welcome dash of naturalism amid all the CGI action. She's such an innocent and wholesome young bride, though, that perhaps she's ripe for reconsideration, too. Next time, maybe Beauty breaks bad. "Maleficent: Mistress of Evil," a Walt Disney Co. release, is rated PG by the Motion Picture Association of America for intense sequences of fantasy action/violence and brief scary images. Running time: 118 minutes. Two stars out of four. □

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**PH** MON-THU 4:50 | 7:30  
FRI 4:50 | 7:30 | 10:10  
SAT 2:10 4:50 7:30 | 10:10  
SUN 2:10 4:50 7:30  
**3D VERSION**  
**PH** MON-FRI 6:10 | 8:50  
SAT-SUN 3:30 6:10 | 8:50  
**CXC** **3D VERSION**  
**PBP** 2D VERSION MON-THU & SUN 3:30 | 8:40  
MON-SUN 12:55 | 6:05 | FRI-SAT 3:30 | 8:40 | 11:05  
**PBP** **VIP** MON-SUN 1:40 | 4:15 | 6:50 | 9:25

**ROGUE WARFARE**  
WILL YUN LEE | JERMAINE LOVE  
**PH** MON-FRI 4:20 | 6:45 | 9:10  
SAT-SUN 1:55 | 4:20 | 6:45 | 9:10

**JOKER**  
JOAQUIN PHOENIX | ROBERT DE NIRO  
WITH SPANISH SUBTITLES  
**PH** **VIP** MON-FRI 6:05 | 8:50  
SAT-SUN 3:20 | 6:05 | 8:50  
**PH** MON-THU 4:45 | 7:30  
FRI 4:45 | 7:30 | 10:15  
SAT 2:00 4:45 7:30 | 10:15  
SUN 2:00 4:45 7:30  
**PBP** MON-THU & SUN 3:10 | 5:50 | 8:30  
FRI-SAT 3:10 | 5:50 | 8:30 | 11:10  
**PBP** **VIP** MON-SUN 1:20 | 4:00 | 6:40 | 9:20

**10 MINUTES GONE**  
BRUCE WILLIS | MICHAEL CHIKLIS  
**PBP** MON-THU & SUN 9:35  
FRI-SAT 9:35 | 11:40

**RAMBO LAST BLOOD**  
SYLVESTER STALLONE | PAZ VEGA  
**PH** MON-THU & SUN 8:30  
FRI-SAT 8:30 | 10:40  
**PBP** MON-THU & SUN 1:10 | 3:15 | 5:20 | 7:25 | 9:30  
FRI-SAT 1:10 | 3:15 | 5:20 | 7:25 | 9:30 | 11:35

**ABOMINABLE**  
CHLOE BENNET | ALBERT TSAI  
WITH SPANISH SUBTITLES  
**PH** MON-FRI 4:00 | 6:15  
SAT-SUN 1:50 | 4:00 | 6:15  
**PBP** MON-SUN 12:55 | 3:05 | 5:15 | 7:25

**HUSTLERS**  
CONSTANCE WU | JENNIFER LOPEZ  
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## Houston, Notorious B.I.G. nominated for rock hall of fame

**NEW YORK (AP)** — The late musical icons Whitney Houston and the Notorious B.I.G. are among the 16 acts nominated for the Rock and Roll Hall of Fame's 2020 class. The prestigious organization announced Tuesday that Dave Matthews Band, Motorhead, Pat Benatar, Soundgarden, The Doobie Brothers, T.Rex and Thin Lizzy join Houston and B.I.G. as first-time Rock Hall nominees. The 35th annual Rock & Roll Hall of Fame Induction Ceremony will take place on May 2, 2020, at the Public Auditorium in

Cleveland, Ohio. Nine Inch Nails, Judas Priest, Rufus featuring Chaka Khan, Depeche Mode, Kraftwerk, MC5 and Todd Rundgren round out the 16 nominees for the 2020 class. The official inductees will be announced in January. Each year, between five and seven acts usually make it into the Rock Hall following a vote by 1,000 people, including performers, music historians and industry experts. Fans are able to vote online. Acts are eligible for induction 25 years after the release of their first com-

mercial recording. Houston has been eligible for nearly a decade: Her self-titled debut album was released in 1985. The six-time Grammy winner is one of the greatest singers of all-time, known for hits like "The Greatest Love of All," "I Will Always Love You" and "I Wanna Dance With Somebody." She died in 2012. B.I.G., born Christopher Wallace, released his debut album, "Ready to Die," in 1994. He was shot to death in 1997, 16 days before the release of his sophomore album, "Life After Death." □



# For Ben Platt, a perfect pitch leads to 'The Politician'

By MIKE CIDONI LENNOX

Associated Press

SANTA BARBARA, Calif.

(AP) — To hear Ben Platt describe it, producer Ryan Murphy's pitch for him to star in the new Netflix series "The Politician" had all the planning, precision and vision of a successful presidential campaign.

"He said, 'OK, the show is called 'The Politician.' The character's Peyton Hobart. This is the content of the character. I want Gwyneth Paltrow to play a mother. The world's going to look like this. This is going to be eight episodes. If we go this many seasons, you'll end up here," Platt said of their meeting.

Platt signed on after hearing Murphy's description of the character: a "borderline sociopathic-egomaniacal-ambitious witty man." It's a departure from Platt's star-making role, the sweet, socially awkward title character of "Dear Evan Hansen."

"And so, to me, that was,



Actor Ben Platt poses for photographers upon arrival at the UK premiere for The Politician, at a central London cinema, Monday, Oct 14, 2019.

Associated Press

as an actor, the most delicious possible possibility," Platt said.

Platt's Hobart will go to any lengths to achieve his dream of becoming president of the United States. But, first, he must win over voters in his high school

election, which is a lot harder than it sounds.

Murphy, the Emmy-winning producer behind "Glee" and "American Crime Story," offered Platt other enticements, including an executive producer credit.

"(That) allowed me to have

some sort of creative ownership over it that I have been able to have in the theater, but not really anywhere else as of yet," the Tony Award winner said. "And so that was really attractive to me."

Platt wasn't the only actor

who Murphy wooed with a perfect pitch. Jessica Lange, who has won two Emmy Awards starring in Murphy's "American Horror Story" series, said the producer knew just how to get her to sign on.

"He reels me in because he knows what I like and what's going to kind of trigger my imagination right away," said Lange, who plays the shady grandmother of Hobart's running mate. "So, then he'll drop the couple things here and there, you know: 'She went to Hollywood. She wanted to be Vanna White. She's from West Virginia. She got pregnant when she was a teenager. She was . . . ' And I can see it all coming. And it's never a surprise to me, but it's always tremendously entertaining. So, you know, I end up saying, 'Yeah, I'll do it.'"

In addition to Platt and Lange, the series that debuts Friday adds the star power of Paltrow and Oscar nominee Bob Balaban. □

# Evaristo says Booker win a landmark for black British women

LONDON (AP) — Winning the Booker Prize is one big step for Bernardine Evaristo — and, she hopes, a giant leap for British women writers of color.

This week the London-based writer shared the prestigious prize for English-language fiction with Margaret Atwood after the five-person panel of judges decided they couldn't choose between Atwood's dystopian thriller "The Testaments" and Evaristo's kaleidoscope of black women's stories, "Girl, Woman, Other."

Evaristo is the first woman of African heritage to win the Booker in its 50-year history, and only the fourth ever to be a finalist.

"Fifty years, 300 books — only four black women have been shortlisted," she said Tuesday. "Hopefully this will mark a new direction."

Speaking to The Associated Press hours after being handed the prize alongside Atwood at a glitzy ceremony,



Britain's Camila The Duchess of Cornwall poses for photographs with 2019 Booker prize joint winners Margaret Atwood, right, and Bernardine Evaristo, left, during a reception for the Booker Prize Foundation at Clarence House in London, Tuesday Oct. 15, 2019.

Associated Press

ny, Evaristo exuded excitement and delight, even on two hours' sleep.

"I'm very, very excited and euphoric," she said. "It's

such a major prize, and it felt so unattainable."

Born in London to a Nigerian father and white British mother, Evaristo has

published seven previous novels — two of them in verse — exploring aspects of black life in Britain, from Roman times to the present

day. Inventive and readable, they have won her critical acclaim, though not mega-sales.

"Those who know the work think I'm kind of more mainstream than I am," she said. Evaristo, 60, says she knew winning the Booker could transform her career, and act as a beacon to other female writers of color. But until her name appeared on the 13-book longlist earlier this year, she never thought it would happen.

"It was such an establishment prize," she said. "And even though there were some quirky choices, it just felt that the kinds of things I write, from my perspective, would not be the kinds of things that Booker judges would consider to be literature to cherish."

The Booker, whose past winners include Salman Rushdie, Kazuo Ishiguro and Atwood — a winner once before, in 2000 — almost always brings the victor a huge boost in publicity and sales. □



# Biophilic decor: Ways to bring the feel of nature indoors

By KIM COOK  
Associated Press

The term "biophilia," an affinity for the living world, was coined back in the 1980s by American biologist and author E.O. Wilson. We have an instinctive drive to connect with nature, he said, and the more we connect, the happier we are. That's why a walk in the woods can feel so good, or a sit on a quiet beach. In our homes, we might try to bring the outside in with a potted tree, some herbs on the window sill, perhaps floral wallpaper or landscape art.

Some other creative ideas from innovative designers today:

"When I first started reading about biophilic design and how we needed to be flooding our homes with gorgeous natural views, daylight and plants I thought, 'Well that's dandy, but how about people in homes and work spaces that just don't have access to these things?'" says Phoebe Oldrey, who runs Smart Style Interiors in Tunbridge Wells, England.

"How do I, as an interior designer, give them the benefits of biophilic design? The answer came in the choice of materials we use in our designs, and natural materials is the way to go."

In one home, she designed floating maple cabinetry inlaid with a pattern of swallows in flight. In a dining/kitchen space with doors opening onto a leafy outdoor area, she placed a large light fixture com-



This undated photo shows a converted garage project by Bunch Design in the Highland Park area of Los Angeles, Calif.

Associated Press

posed of colorful glass bubbles; it's as though a cluster of errant balloons drifted in from the backyard. And in a weekend cottage, she placed a ceiling fixture made of woven sticks over the bed, evoking a cozy bird's nest.

Lighting is a great way to bring a biophilic element into a room.

If you like the idea of that stick fixture, check out Serena & Lily's Vero pendant made of wispy woven rattan twigs. All Modern has the Organique chandelier, a freeform 'nest' of rubbed bronze. Arteriors Home has the Tilda fixture made of whitewashed wood sticks, and the Wichita floor lamp crafted of downed teak tree trunks.

Brooklyn's Nea Studio has

found a formula for treating green marine algae so it becomes firm yet malleable. Designer Nina Edwards Anker handcrafts the algae into light shades that cast a warm glow. Anker has also created a solar chandelier made from shells and photovoltaic modules; hang the fixture in a window and it becomes a solar clock, turning on at dusk. Passing breezes make it a wind chime, too.

New technologies are giving us lighting that's more reflective of outdoor light. Ketra offers an LED system that can be tuned so the room lighting moves from warm candlelight to a wintry Arctic sky. Nanoleaf's light panels interlock; affix them to a wall, then operate them remotely to cycle through arrays like "sunrise" and "Northern Lights."

If you're renovating or building, think about adding cutouts beyond the traditional windows and sliding doors — horizontal lighting like skylights, for instance. Bo Sundius of Bunch Design in Los Angeles says the firm always thinks about how sun and light moving across rooms can be used to connect interiors to the outdoors.

In one converted garage project, long clerestory windows were placed high on the walls of a small living room. Afternoon light

Meadow, Dragonfly and Bluebird.

Murals can showcase nature dramatically; they work well in family rooms, hallways or bedrooms. For something unusual, consider Flavor Paper's Saguaro Sessions collection. The studio's founder, Jon Sherman, and photographer Boone Speed were inspired by a trip to Saguaro National Park to make wallpapers that showcase macro photography of gemstones and minerals, with the crystalline structures creating unique patterns in extreme close-up.

Roche Bobois' Bois Paradis collection from Maison Lacroix features wood cabinets and screens, and upholstered seating, printed with a woodland scene. On the casegoods and tables, the pattern is in silhouette, giving them an air of mystery.

Bedding maker Buffy offers the Breeze comforter made of sustainable eucalyptus, and stitched with a wave and wind pattern inspired by the rolling hills of artist Maya Lin's Storm King Wavefield in Orange County, New York.

Buffy's also introduced a collection of naturally dyed sheets, with dye experts Maria Elena Pombo and Kathy Hattori. They've used botanicals like walnut, gardenia, turmeric and pomegranate to gently color the textiles.

Miami-based design house Plant the Future is known for biophilic installations like "living" plant murals on building exteriors. □



This undated photo provided by Roche Bobois shows one of pieces from Roche Bobois' Bois Paradis collection from Maison Lacroix.

Associated Press



This undated photo provided by Otherland shows candles available from Motherland.

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